

Unionists fear new wave of terror after Hillsborough

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Ulster Unionists gave warning yesterday of a renewed onslaught of terrorist violence as a result of the Anglo-Irish agreement which was being debated in Parliament.

The Unionists' concerns about the agreement were treated with sympathy, as Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Mr Neil Kinnock, Mr James Prior and others sought earnestly to persuade them that the agreement signed at Hillsborough, Co. Down, two weeks ago was designed to help them, and that the formal involvement of the Dublin Government in their affairs could only be benign.

But they believed none of the assurances. They were certain, as Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionists said, that Northern Ireland must expect, as a result of Hillsborough, a renewed onslaught from a terrorist movement convinced of victory.

Some of the warmest words of sympathy for the beleaguered Unionists came in the Lords from Lord Fitt, formerly Mr Gerry Fitt, who once led the constitutional nationalists of the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

Lord Fitt described himself as an inveterate opponent of Unionism throughout his life, but he begged the Government not to shut out the Unionist community.

He said he had received hundreds of letters from decent Unionists and Protestants who did not accept some of the ranting rhetoric heard in Belfast. There was a "burning bitter resentment" among Unionists, who were not even to have an observer to represent their interests in the Anglo-Irish standing conference.

Lord Fitt backed the agreement but in full knowledge, he said, of the awful obstacles in its way.

In the Commons there were no exaggerated claims for what Hillsborough might achieve. Mr Prior, a former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, summed up the spirit in which the House will give its approval when the debate ends tonight.

"We can't go on as we are," Mr Prior said beseechingly to the Unionist benches, while Mr Enoch Powell fixed him with a stare of unremitting ferocity.

"There is no other way than to take some chances in the interests of peace."

Mrs Thatcher, opening the debate, commended the agreement as she has from the first as a possible road to peace.

The only lasting way to put an end to the violence, and achieve peace and stability in Northern Ireland, was reconciliation between unionist and nationalist communities, she said. That was the goal of the agreement.

As for complaints that the standing conference was tilted in favour of the nationalists, who would be represented by Dublin, Mrs Thatcher repudiated them. "The unionist voice is clearly heard and will continue to be so," she insisted. "And ignored," Mr Harold McCusker, Official Unionist MP for Upper Bann, rejoined.

Mr Kinnock in an eloquent and generous speech praised the Prime Minister's work, and commended her "without reserve" for a significant and welcome adjustment in her position since she took office.

He urged the unionists to trust his friends in Dublin, Dr Garret FitzGerald and Mr Dick Spring, joint authors of the agreement. Although they were Irish nationalists, he said, they were "front door agents for peace and not back door fixers of reunification."

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Malta police quiz surviving hijacker

From Colin Hughes, Valletta

The Maltese Government is to prosecute, under its own law, the hijacker who survived an Egyptian commando assault on an Egyptian Boeing 737 at Luqa airport in Malta on Sunday.

The man, who was said to have led the hijack, was briefly interrogated for the first time yesterday at St. Luke's Hospital in Valletta, where he is being kept in a separate ward under armed guard. He had been unconscious until yesterday morning, having been struck on the head with an axe by the aircraft's captain during the commando raid.

The man identified himself as Omar Marzouki, aged 20. He is listed on the flight's passenger list as Tunisian.

Mr Paul Mifsud, Malta's Director of Information, said yesterday: "An interrogation carried out by Maltese security staff has begun but so far has only established his identity. We do not yet know whether he is being sought by any foreign security agencies."

Marzouki has been identified by several people as the man who led the hijack, and who spent most of the 24 hours in the cockpit and conducted negotiations through the air traffic control tower.

"If there is sufficient evidence against this hijacker, he will be prosecuted according to Maltese law," Mr Mifsud said. No requests had been received from

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Sky marshal doubts
foreign governments to join the investigation, or for extradition. It is thought that the Egyptians will be keen to question the man at an early stage. Mr Mifsud said approaches were expected and would be considered when they came.

Dr Noel Cuschieri, a Maltese investigating magistrate, yesterday opened a formal inquiry into all aspects of the hijack and commando assault. Police are already interviewing surviving passengers and the aircraft's crew.

Mr Mifsud said that the magistrate's report would go to the

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How Hatton pushed sales of 'Militant'

By Anthony Bevis and Peter Davenport

Mr Neil Kinnock, who is expected to ask Labour's national executive to suspend and investigate the activities of the Liverpool District Labour Party today, has been given hard evidence of Mr Derek Hatton's backing for the Trotskyist Militant Tendency.

The Labour leader challenged The Times earlier this month to provide "satisfactory proof of individuals' membership of an organization," and party headquarters explained that any member could be expelled for selling Militant, the organization's newspaper, at party events or meetings.

But a dossier handed to Mr Kinnock in Liverpool earlier this month contained a Militant leaflet which proclaimed the unique qualities of the weekly paper, urged people to buy it, asked for donations, and offered a Militant speaker for meetings.

The leaflet was signed "Yours fraternally" by Mr Hatton, deputy leader of the council, Mr Tony Mulhearn, president of the District Labour Party, and 13 other named Labour councillors.

Mr Tony McGann, vice-chairman of Liverpool's inner-city Vauxhall ward, said yesterday: "Mr Kinnock has said he wants evidence against Militant. Now we have given it to him and he should act."

The Vauxhall dossier also contains the names of six party members who had sold Militant at party meetings, and an

allegation that the Liverpool Riverside constituency party executive ignored national executive instructions to ban its sale.

Militant's Merseyside takeover will dominate today's meeting of the Labour national executive in London because Mr Kinnock has been so incensed by the Militant-dominated Liverpool council's humiliating confrontation with the organization, and the party leadership has been so concerned about the trade union bosses.

At the very least Mr Kinnock will ask for, and get, an investigation into the district Labour party, the instrument of Militant's power in Liverpool. But now that the leader has the bit between his teeth he is also being pressed for suspension for the district party.

It is hoped that a high-powered investigation, which would include Mr Charles Taverney, the Labour leader's spokesman, and the Railways official who is chairman of Labour's organization committee, would report back with recommendations by January, along with identified targets for expulsion.

Although Mr Kinnock's action is expected to create party-wide turmoil, his advisers feel that the party benefits from increased public support along the lines of "the Bourne-mouth bonus" which pushed the party up the ratings after his party conference attacks on the Mersey Militants and Mr Arthur Scargill.

had an enormous role to play, in making people aware of their own talents and abilities, he said.

Britain could learn a lot from the United States, the Prince went on. He had been told that a large proportion of jobs created in the past 15 years there had been in small businesses.

The Prince suggested that in Britain the public sector should provide seed money and private voluntary agencies should get on with grassroots work in the communities.

That made more sense, he argued, than setting up bureaucratic organizations to tell people what they ought to be doing.

There was a need for a more enthusiastic response from the

Prince fears fourth-rate future for Britain

By Robin Young

The Prince of Wales said yesterday that Britain could be demoted to the ranks of fourth-rate nations unless individuals changed their attitudes to enterprise and industry.

The Prince said that in the northern part of the country there was no real realization of what could be achieved.

"Those who have been employed in large industries for many years, coal mining, shipbuilding, steel and textiles, this particularly applies to the northern part of this country - have got used to a completely employee-related existence," he said.

The problem was how to change people's attitudes so that they realized they could contribute the creation of jobs and enterprise.

Business in the Community

The Prince was speaking at the annual meeting of Scottish Business in the Community (Scottish), an organization of which he was elected president yesterday.

He told the meeting, at the Caledonian Hotel, Edinburgh: "We do need a sense of urgency in our outlook in the regeneration of industry in this country. What worries me is that otherwise we are going to end up as a fourth-rate country. I don't want to see that. I don't think you want to see that either."

The Prince promised that during his five-year term of office as Scotland's president he would try to change people's attitudes for the benefit of private companies and communities.

There was a need for a more enthusiastic response from the

Lawson links low pay deals to jobs

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Chancellor last night warned private sector employers to take a firmer grip on wage settlements as part of the fight to reduce unemployment.

Giving evidence to the all-party Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee, Mr Nigel Lawson promised there would be "no let-up" in the tight control of public sector pay, and voiced the hope that private sector settlements would come down to public sector levels.

Mr Lawson, who was being questioned about his autumn economic statement, said that lower wage settlements would probably lead to more investment, less growth in consumer expenditure and "above all more employment."

Referring to the level of pay deals under the last Labour government, Mr Lawson said: "Things have changed for the better, but there are still further changes required. Management needs to take a firmer grip of its costs in general and wage costs in particular."

Mr Lawson gave no encouragement to Conservative and Labour MPs who called for a reduction in interest rates to help manufacturing industry.

When Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, told the Chancellor that the Midlands needed interest rates lower or it would never be able to compete, Mr Lawson said bluntly that he did not accept that.

"I do not believe there is any salvation for this country through progressive devaluation. We have had plenty of experience of that and it has done no good, and a great deal of harm."

Asked whether he was satisfied that public sector manpower had been cut enough, Mr Lawson said he was not. He was satisfied with the reductions made in the Civil Service, but not with the level of manning in local government and the National Health Service.

Mr Lawson was unrepentant about his decision this year not to publish a forecast of the sum he might have available in next year's budget for cuts in taxation.

He told the committee that there was no real loss in its not having the forecast, and said it was inevitably an uncertain one on which no decisions were based. Even when made at the budget there was an element of uncertainty about it, but at least there was a lower margin of error than in having to make it several months in advance.

Mr Lawson told the committee that, even with the proceeds of privatization excluded, public expenditure would be kept broadly constant in real terms, and with a growing economy this should permit a gradual reduction in taxation.

Tighten law on Asian wives

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

A legal loophole is allowing Bangladeshi husbands settled in Britain to be joined permanently by two or more wives and all their children from abroad, a Commons inquiry has revealed.

Up to 25 per cent of married women now applying in Bangladesh to be united with their husbands in Britain are, in fact, the men's second wives. MPs were told during a recent fact finding tour of the Indian subcontinent.

The Commons select committee which is carrying out an investigation into immigration procedures is almost certain to recommend that the loophole be closed immediately, and the Home Office is likely to agree.

Conservative MPs who visited Bangladesh were horrified by what they discovered and believe, if left unchecked, it will result in a substantial increase in immigration. They alerted Home Office ministers immediately they returned home.

Most Bangladeshi men settled in Britain are Muslims and according to their faith they can have up to four wives. The Home Office confirmed last night that existing immigration rules allow the husbands to apply successfully for all their wives, together with children to be allowed to move from Bangladesh and live in Britain.

While visiting the Sylhet region of Bangladesh, the main source of immigration to Britain, MPs came face to face with an apparently typical second wife application.

The woman's husband settled in Britain in 1971 and was soon joined by his first wife and six children. He subsequently married his second wife in Bangladesh and now wants her and their seven children to join his first family.

The MPs, three Conservatives and one Labour, were told by British officials that the application is likely to succeed.

Mr John Wheeler, Conservative MP for Westminster, North, and chairman of the Commons committee on race relations and immigration, told The Times: "We were agast at what we found."

"We are immensely concerned that applications from second wives are running at the rate of 25 per cent of applications from all wives in Bangladesh. Each wife seems to be accompanied by several children."

The new trend could change "quite dramatically" Britain's expectations about how many people it would have to absorb from the Indian subcontinent.

Mr Wheeler also believes his committee's findings raised serious moral questions with women from very rural backgrounds "being dragged thousands of miles across the world and dumped in some terrible block of flats."

Ford pay rise hinges on changed work practices to improve productivity

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Editor

The single title of "production operator" will replace 85 separate job designations under a sweeping series of productivity changes put by Ford of Britain to its 37,000 manual workers.

The big reductions in traditional demarcations, enshrined in the Ford "blue book", is part of a far reaching efficiency document being examined by shop stewards before the two sides meet again for talks next Wednesday.

Agreement on the document is a pre-condition to Ford paying a two stage pay increase of up to 15.7 per cent for line workers over two years, which it offered at the last pay talks on November 21.

The unpublished document is aimed at the "elimination of inefficient lines of demarcation" as well as substantial increase in the "versatility and flexibility" which it expects from both skilled and semi-skilled workers.

The measures, aimed at bringing Ford of Britain closer to West German and in the long

run Japanese productivity standards, make it clear that production operators would be required to perform a series of tasks beyond those called for by current narrow job designations.

These would include the finding and repair of minor defects to machinery; the operation of quality monitoring processes; the fetching of material needed at the workplace; and "minor running adjustments", cleaning and lubrication of equipment.

Ford strongly denies claims by some union activists that the proposals are part of a plan to introduce "Nissan-style" Japanese working practices to its plants. But the document envisages an overall reduction from 500 to 38 in the individual job specifications for manual workers.

Instead of a series of different craft designations, for example the new plan would create the single category of "maintenance specialist". Eighteen separate material handling and store-keeping jobs would be com-

combined under the single title of "material handler".

The company makes it clear that payment of the new productivity allowances, which are supplementary to a basic increase under offer of only 3 per cent with an extra 1 per cent for the company's 10,000 line workers, will be conditional on a "significant reduction in the number of job titles".

Examples of proposed job designations:

New: Mechanical maintenance craftsman; Old: Fitter (fitters and fixers), fitter (body press), cooper, cooper, pipefitter, fitter (fitter, heavy and light equipment), fitter (foundry), sheet metal worker, bricklayer (furnace), mechanical maintenance craftsman.

New: Driver (advanced); Old: Driver - bush truck, lift truck, mechanical sweeper, tow train, tractor, vehicle (estate), slinger.

New: Civil engineering tradesman; Old: carpenter, floor block layer, painter, painter/glazier, repairman (test track), roof repairman, saw filer.



Residents of the Divis estate discussing the report which describes the flats in Falls Road, Belfast, as "the worst housing in Western Europe" (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Residents reject plan for Belfast estate

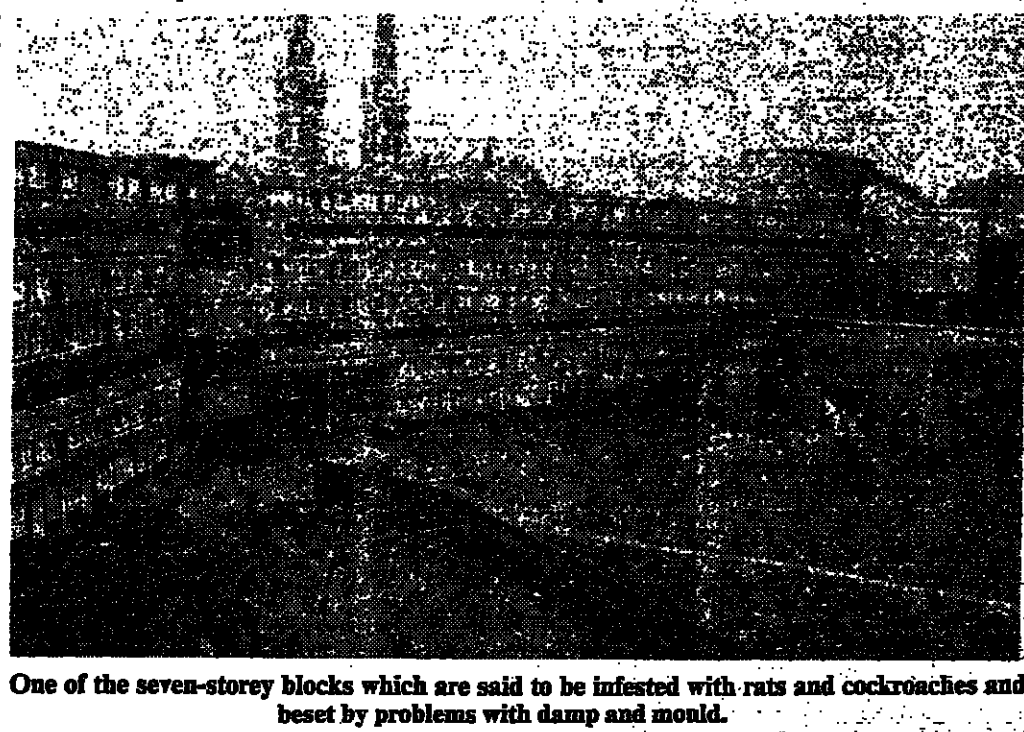
By Our Architecture Correspondent

The Town and Country Planning Association is supporting 400 families, living in the notorious Divis flats, on the Falls Road, Belfast, who want their homes demolished and to be rehoused.

In a report yesterday, the association's executive committee rejects plans to refurbish the flats as "throwing good money after bad" and as "perverted planning logic". It lists appalling social and planning problems such as incurable damp, mould and fungus, inadequate and unhealthy sewage and waste disposal, and infestation by rats, mice and cockroaches.

The estate of 795 flats for nearly 3,000 people was built between 1966 and 1972 for the Northern Ireland Housing Trust and originally comprised 12 seven-storey blocks of deck-access flats and a 19-storey block. In 1969 it became a refuge for people burnt out of their homes in neighbouring streets.

The estate is under 24-hour surveillance by the security services.



One of the seven-storey blocks which are said to be infested with rats and cockroaches and beset by problems with damp and mould.

Apartheid action call by church

The British Council of Churches yesterday called on the Government to impose "carefully-targeted sanctions" on South Africa to end apartheid.

The move followed a report to the autumn assembly of the council by a delegation of nine church representatives who visited South Africa in September.

Sanctions should include a ban on new investment, selective withdrawal of current investments, especially in the field of high technology, a boycott of South African exports and a withdrawal of loan facilities, according to the report.

The need for sanctions was expressed to the assembly on Monday by Dr Beyers Naude, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches.

During yesterday's debate, which led to the adoption of a resolution backing sanctions, the Government was accused of being badly informed about the real situation in South Africa.

Miss Mildred Neville, the representative of the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Hume, on the South African trip, said it was clear that over the past two years there had been a great resurgence of organization and determination among black people.

She was alarmed that the British Ambassador in Pretoria failed to show them any contact with black opinion. "The situation is such that nothing else, other than one person, one vote, will satisfy the black population."

The South African Government's plans for reform were for "international consumption" and were like "unknitting with the deckchairs on the Titanic".

The assembly resolution said that "given the deepening crisis in South Africa and the Christian duty to promote its just resolution, BBC policy will be strong advocacy for and full support for carefully-targeted sanctions."

26% rise to halt brain drain

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Pay rises of up to 26 per cent for government engineers and technology officers have been urged as part of a drive to stem the flow of professional staff out of the Civil Service and into highly-paid jobs in the private sector. The rises will be in addition to annual pay rises negotiated for the Civil Service as a whole.

The increases are part of a restructuring of pay guides covering 40,000 staff in government departments and will be paid in four stages with the final instalment no later than January 1989. Union officials are now pressing for a similar exercise to be mounted for 13,000 government scientists.

Agreement on the new structure of the Professional and Technology Officer (PTO) grades has been reached after almost two years of negotiations between the Treasury and the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, which represents most of the staff involved.

Under the agreement the present maximum rates for the two highest grades, including skilled electronic, electrical and mechanical engineers, will rise from £13,410 and £10,673 a year to £15,200 and £12,200, increases of 14.3 per cent and 13.3 per cent respectively.

The bottom two grades, into which all staff, including supervisors, at dockyards, and a large number of Ministry of Defence staff are to be merged and the maximum rates will rise from £9,108 and £8,327 to a new, unified salary of £10,500, representing increases of 15.3 per cent and 26.1 per cent.

The Government has been experiencing difficulties in recruiting and retaining engineering and technical staff and last year's Civil Service Commission report showed that there were 520 vacancies for electronic and mechanical engineers, with only 121 of the posts being filled.

Overall in the PTO grades, there were 1,337 vacancies, of which just over 50 per cent were filled.

The problems have been caused by a squeezing of differentials of the PTO group at both bottom and top ends of the scales. Those at the bottom end have found that bonus and overtime earnings by Industrial Civil Servants were encroaching on their pay levels.

At the top end, the salaries of principal PTOs and principal scientific officers had fallen behind those of principals in the administration grades by between £1,041 and £1,091 a year. Salaries in these grades are to be renegotiated shortly so that they can be included in a new administration grade which is being created from the beginning of next year.

Civil Service union leaders said yesterday that they would boycott any attempt by the Government to halloot the 500,000 white collar staff on a long term-term pay system which hangs in the balance at the moment.

Graffiti peace plan for school rejected

A peace plan aimed at ending the dispute over obscene graffiti at Poundswick High School, Wythenshawe, Manchester, was rejected by Manchester City Council's education heads yesterday.

Governors of the school, effectively closed for more than two months, suggested that the five boys at the centre of the dispute be taught in an annex by new staff. Alternatives involved transferring the boys to other schools, further education colleges or work experience courses.

The governors also asked for all 61 Poundswick staff to be released from their contractual obligations to teach the five and for the 47 teachers refusing to return to school to resume teaching from December. But discussion on their proposals broke up after only 15 minutes.

With Mr. Nick Harris, the Labour education spokesman, saying they duplicated suggestions by teaching unions two months ago.

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Man remanded on bomb charge

A man was remanded in custody by Lambeth magistrates yesterday charged with conspiracy to cause an explosion at Chelsea barracks, London, on November 1.

Peter Conliffe, 26, of St Julian's Road, Kilburn, north London, was remanded until next Wednesday. There was no application for bail.

Canary wharf deal delayed

The signing of a master building agreement for the £1.5 billion Canary Wharf development in London has been delayed until next year.

The London Docklands Development Corporation and a consortium of American banks were expected to sign it this week. The delay is thought to be due to negotiations over the proposed extension to the Docklands Light Railway.

Deaf-mute man moved from jail

Glen Pearson, a deaf-mute, aged 33, of Haverhill, Cambridgeshire, was ordered yesterday to be released from prison immediately, where he had been remanded, accused of stealing £5, and moved to Haverhill Hospital, near Lincoln.

The order, by Judge Wilcock at Lincoln Crown Court, followed protests by two MPs and a petition signed by 1,200 people.

Death fight fine for karate man

A member of England's karate squad who was involved in a street fight which ended in the death of a youth, was fined £400 at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Cole, aged 19, a pub manager, of Denmark Road, Barking, London, admitted taking part in a fight in Plaistow, east London, last November. Balfour Singh, 20, also a karate expert, an off-licence manager, of Church Avenue, Plaistow, admitted giving Cole a knife, a service, and Pryce, whose brother was killed in the fight, was given two years probation.

Nine arrested at cruise demo

Nine people were arrested during incidents when demonstrators threw paint at a cruise convoy returning to the Greenham Common missile base near Newbury, Berkshire, early yesterday.

Three were later released without charge. Four policemen and one demonstrator were treated in hospital.

Legionella find

Legionella bacteria have been discovered in the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow, and four surgical wards were closed yesterday.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$20, Belgium 18, Canada 20, Denmark 18, France 18, Germany 18, Greece 18, Hong Kong 18, India 18, Italy 18, Japan 18, New Zealand 18, Norway 18, Portugal 18, Spain 18, Sweden 18, Switzerland 18, Taiwan 18, Thailand 18, USA 18, West Germany 18.

Rising star for London BR post

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

One of British Rail's brightest young stars is to take charge of London and South-East commuter services in January, Mr Chris Green, aged 42, is currently general manager of Scottish Region, a post to which he was the youngest-ever appointee only 18 months ago. A history graduate from Oxford, he is talked of as a future chairman of British Rail.

While in Scotland he has masterminded a new dynamic image for "ScotRail", given a massive facelift to famous stations like Edinburgh Waverley and Glasgow Central opened more than 10 new stations and brought in radio signalling to cut costs on rural lines. Colleagues described him yesterday as "a workaholic".

He takes over as director of the London and South-East division from Mr David Kirby, aged 52, who becomes joint managing director of BR railways in harness with Mr Jim O'Brien, who already holds that position.

The post in the re-shuffle goes to Mr Geoffrey Myes, aged 35, who rises from joint managing director to vice-chairman in charge of the railway business under Sir Bob Reid, BR's chairman. He is an engineer and former head of Eastern Region.

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Farm group seeks end to meat support

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The abandonment of the EEC price support system for beef and sheep farmers, and a progressive reduction in cereal prices, are recommended in a report by a working party of the Country Landowners Association, published yesterday.

Coming from an organization whose members are predominantly farmers, the report indicates a significant shift in attitudes. It moves the emphasis away from full time professional farming, supported by the taxpayer towards a self-sustaining diversification of activities, including forestry, tourism and small rural industries.

Continuation of present policies for cattle and sheep presents little prospect of curbing further decline in market share and profitability, it says. The intervention system should be disbanded on the grounds that it suppresses consumption, and the resultant saving of more than £1,600 million in the EEC as a whole redistributed to encourage non-intensive livestock grazing and so help to conserve the countryside.

Lord Gretton, chairman of the working party, said yesterday that the common agricultural policy in its present form did nothing for the consumer or the environment.

The report also casts doubt on the effectiveness of artificial constraints on agricultural

Local ombudsman: 3

Injustices that go unresolved

The rejection of the shopping list sent to the Government by the local ombudsmen for England has become an annual event. The ombudsmen's frustration comes through most clearly in their widely-ignored annual reports.

They say that the legal straitjacket means that they learn of cases of injustice they cannot investigate. Although most cases they investigate are resolved, they lack powers to wrap up the rest.

Most councils act quickly to correct injustices spotted by the ombudsmen. Many pay compensation to aggrieved ratepayers. Some councils pay even if they disagree with the verdict. A few ignore it.

There is a faintly dated air of "The bighorners aren't playing the game" in those passages of the ombudsmen's joint annual reports dealing with recalcitrant councils. Last year, Mr Pat Cook, ombudsman for northern England, wrote: "I criticize those who know that the criticism is fair, but refuse publicly to acknowledge it."

The lack of any means of wrapping up a case is the most

to be widened so that grudging councils can be forced to make amends. A Commons select committee is investigating the system and associations of local authorities have warned members that failure to abide by the decisions of ombudsmen will invite legal enforcement.

But the Government refuses to act on the grounds that only a few cases go badly wrong. Last year, 9 per cent of more than 3,000 cases referred to the three English local ombudsmen reached the stage of a report to the council concerned.

The others were settled before report stage or were abandoned because they went beyond the remit of an ombudsman. In the 10 years since the ombudsman system started in England there have been more than 1,500 cases in which a verdict of injustice has been delivered.

In all but 92 of those cases the councils took action that satisfied the ombudsman. That minority represents 6 per cent of cases of injustice and a much smaller proportion of cases examined. The ombudsmen say that such cases, although few in number, represent "100 per cent failure" for those involved and provide a platform for critics of local government.

But the ombudsmen are not the only people to whom the Government must listen when it considers reforms. There is also the "representative body", a small collection of councillors entitled in law to comment to the Government about proposed reforms of the ombudsman system.

When the ombudsmen ask for more powers, the body of councillors tells ministers that they should not have them. The councillors' last message was that they did not "condone those authorities which fail to provide a satisfactory remedy, but consider that the right solution is to act by persuasion".

Faced with those contradictory suggestions, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, decided to do nothing except agree that "steps should be taken to secure greater compliance". He will do no more until the Commons committee has delivered its report.

Concluded

Maxwell in colour plant move

By Our Labour Reporter

Mr Robert Maxwell, publisher of Mirror Group Newspapers, is negotiating to buy a 54-acre site owned by Ferranti near Manchester for a new colour printing complex.

Mr Maxwell seems to have shelved plans to buy Thomson Withy Grove.

Sogit '82, the print union, has been asked to instruct its London members to make up the shortfall in the print run when Withy Grove closes.

It is understood that in return, Mr Maxwell guarantees that the new plant at Hollinwood, between Manchester and Oldham, will be operational by September next year.

The offer was to be part of the settlement which brought The Mirror back on the streets yesterday, after a day-long strike by Sogit.

Asian new Lord of the Manor

By Alan Hamilton

A Kenya Asian who came to Britain 21 years ago with £25 in his pocket has succeeded the Earl of Lichfield, the Queen's photographer cousin, as Lord of the Manor of Bentley.

Mr Tahir Khan-Lodhi, now a banker from Gillingham, Kent, confessed yesterday, when he bought the title for £10,500 at a London auction, that not only had he never set foot in Bentley but he had no idea where it was. Nor did he know that it was in Bentley that a previous Lord of the Manor in 1651 had engineered the escape of King Charles II to France, following his enforced hide in an oak tree after the Battle of Worcester.

Bentley is one of four lordships of the manor, previously held by Lord Lichfield, which were auctioned yesterday. The Earl, whose seat is at Shugborough Hall, near Stafford, recently parted from his wife Leonora, sister of the present Duke of Westminster, after 10 years of marriage.

Yesterday's auction was the second major sale of lordships of the manor since 1980, but prices did not reach the record of £22,200 paid by a local resident for the lordship of the manor of Codicote, Hertfordshire, in March.

Purchasers of lordships receive no property, no fishing or mineral rights, no droit de seigneur, nor any other rights or privileges. They acquire only the use of the title "Lord of the Manor", and titular ownership of any historic documents which accompany it, usually retained in the permanent safekeeping of county council archives.

Agents acting for an anonymous English buyer yesterday paid the day's top price of £18,000 for another of the Earl of Lichfield's lordships, that of the manor of Alrewas, Staffordshire. Its price reflected the fact that it came with probably the finest collection of manorial documents in the world, consisting of many thousands of items currently housed in the William Salt Library in Stafford.

Inquiry on student fracas

By Our Education Reporter

A university council ruled yesterday that a report submitted to it by the Students' Union to explain outbreaks of violence during a speech by a Home Office minister, was inadequate.

The council at Manchester University has decided to set in motion its own disciplinary committee inquiry and has given the union a further 10 days to re-submit a report with more details of the disruption and also repeated a request for the names of those involved.

Initially, Mr Kenneth Kitchen, the university registrar, had given a warning that the union's annual grant of £573,000 could be withdrawn unless the council was satisfied with a full explanation about the incident.

The inquiry was demanded after a fracas earlier this month involving Mr David Waddington, the Home Office minister responsible for immigration who was spat on and jeered when he tried to speak during a debate at the union.

Two other government ministers have been at the centre of violent protests at the university in the last two years. Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence was sprayed with red paint, and last March Mr Leon Brittan, the former Home Secretary was involved in a dispute about policing

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Technical coup for teletext

By Our Arts Correspondent

The BBC and ITV teletext services, Cefax and Oracle, are on the verge of technical developments which will extend their importance to their parent organizations.

Cefax, produced for BBC1 and BBC2 and including roving reports producing up-to-date teletext results of events such as snooker contests, is about to undergo technical changes which will cut about a third off the waiting time for pages to update on the system.

Oracle, which is jointly owned by the ITV companies, has signed an agreement to provide private data pages to business subscribers next year. The contract, with the communications company Air Call, which will market it, is worth £500,000 a year, half of Oracle's present advertising revenues. It will put the service, which is expected to make a small profit this year, firmly into the black.

The BBC, anxious for money to make up for its failure to win a 265 licence fee and keen to put on an entrepreneurial face, is also looking at providing business services to subscribers for a fee, though no agreement has been reached.

Teletext services were a drain on the resources of both channels for several years. But the falling cost of teletext-compatible sets has put the service in homes at the rate of 50,000 a month.

Child's first social

By Nick...

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Child's interest must come first in abuse cases, social work guide says

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Guidance for social workers on how to deal with cases of child abuse was published yesterday by the British Association of Social Workers.

The report, the first comprehensive guidance since local authority social services departments were constituted in their present form 15 years ago, sets out detailed practice for social workers, their supervisors and managers, based on what the

association says are the best elements of present practice and the latest research into child abuse. The association represents about a third of the country's 23,000 social workers.

It is being published a week before the report into the inquiry on the death of Jasmine Beckford in Brent north London, is to be published, with an inquiry into the death of Tyrone

Henry in Lambeth, south London, also under way.

Mr Alan Bedford, chairman of the working group that spent two years producing the guidelines, said: "It is my hunch that it is unlikely that any local authority fully matches up to the standards set here in all aspects, although some would be very close."

The code of practice says that "it must be clear throughout that... the primary client for the social worker is the child. Social workers do not act professionally if they fail to consider and involve the parents and the notion of 'family' in their work, but remembering who is the primary client makes many work conflicts easier to resolve."

The association's renewed emphasis on the child's interests being paramount comes after allegations, in some recent cases where children have died, that social workers became too involved with the parents and tried to meet their wishes, rather than insisting that the child's interest must come first.

Social workers have also faced more pressure recently from groups complaining that, too often, parents' rights are ignored in cases of suspected child abuse and that children are being removed unnecessarily from their families.

What the guide says

● The child's interest should always come first whenever social workers are dealing with an abusing family. All social workers who deal with child abuse should be professionally qualified, and have post-qualifying training in child abuse - something few have with only two or three such courses available.

● Social workers and supervisors without such training should press for it, and make it "absolutely clear" to employers if they are not adequately trained, when asked to deal with cases of child abuse.

● Each authority should appoint a child abuse consultant to run and supervise the child abuse register, which

should include all children at risk of sexual abuse and those thought to be at risk, even before there has been an assault.

● Children should be placed on local registers, or taken off, only after a multi-disciplinary case conference. No child in care as a result of abuse should be returned home without a full conference taking place.

● It should also be clearly stated at what level of management key decisions should be taken.

● Correct procedures must be followed. "Inquiry after inquiry, into fatal child abuse cases have found little fault in local procedures but that procedures were not followed."

New types of Christmas tree

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

New varieties of Christmas tree will provide alternatives to the ubiquitous Norway spruce within the next few years, leading grower forecast yesterday.

Mr John Godwin, chairman of the British Christmas Tree Growers' Association, who manages Britain's largest private plantation at Yattendon,

near Newbury, said that the Noble Fir, the Caucasian Fir and the Scots Pine would all be increasingly available. Many people found them attractive, and they tended to keep their needles longer.

About a third of British households would buy a real tree this Christmas, he said. Another third would have plastic trees.

A survey has shown that reasons for not buying trees

ranged from religious motives to fears that pets might injure themselves on the needles.

Home growers expected to sell about four million trees, and only about one would be imported.

Drought and depressed prices had allowed imports to make inroads into the British market in the 1970s, but the industry was now exporting trees to Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippines, Dubai and Bermuda.

Peacock report on BBC 'inadequate'

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Peacock Committee's public opinion survey, which showed a large majority in favour of introducing advertising on the BBC, was inadequately researched, the Broadcasting Research Unit said yesterday.

The BRU, an independent organization funded by the BBC, the Independent Broadcasting Authority and the Markle Foundation, has produced its definition of public service broadcasting and intends to spend about £70,000 in the next nine months researching its own study of public attitudes towards future BBC financing.

Dr David Morrison, who will be responsible for the survey, said that there were a number of difficulties with the surveys conducted so far, including that of the Peacock Committee and a MORI poll for *The Times* which also showed widespread public support for BBC advertising. They regarded broadcasting as a product, instead of asking questions "capable of allowing individuals to intelligently address the cultural issues involved in the future financing of the BBC".

There was no attempt to define what people meant when they talked of the quality of television, Dr Morrison said. The BRU intends to make a detailed study of a small group of people who are taken through all the competing arguments, and will conduct an analysis based on a series of group

discussions. The progress of the first survey will be recorded by Channel 4 for a special edition of the *Right to Reply* programme.

In its new booklet, the BRU defines the main principles of public service broadcasting as:

● Geographic universality - broadcasting programmes should be available to the whole population.

● Universality of appeal - programmes should cater for all interests and tastes.

● Minorities, especially the disadvantaged should recognize their special relationship to the sense of national identity and community, and broadcasting should be distanced from all vested interests in particular, from those of the government of the day.

● Broadcasting should be structured to encourage competition in programming rather than for numbers, and public guidelines should be designed to liberate, rather than restrict, programme-makers.

Mr Richard Hoggart, the BRU chairman, said that the definition was being sent to all members of the Peacock Committee, MPs, academics and broadcasters in the hope that "we can persuade people that the real issues facing British broadcasting in the face of the Peacock inquiry are of principle, and having to do with cultural values, rather than being simply technical and economic matters".

Airport taxi levy review

A London taxi driver was given the go-ahead by a High Court judge yesterday to challenge the 50p a time levy planned for taxis using Heathrow airport.

At a private hearing Mr Justice Tudor Price gave Mr Gordon Pollock leave to seek judicial review of the charge being introduced by the British Airports Authority from December 1. Mr Pollock, aged 45, of Grange Cliffe Gardens, Norwood, London, had sought an

injunction restraining the authority from implementing the charge, but the application was opposed.

Until now the drivers, after dropping off passengers, have been given tickets without charge to enter a feeder park on the northern perimeter of the airport from which they have been directed to the three terminals as they are required. However, the authority wants to recover the £600,000 a year administration costs.

Pot Black to play last shot

Pot Black, the television programme which set snooker on its path to riches, is to be dropped by the BBC. The last series will be recorded at Christmas.

The programme began in July 1979, when colour television made it possible to transmit snooker, and still commands large viewing figures.

In explaining the programme's demise a BBC spokesman said: "It would be wrong to say we have killed it off. It is more a case of pronouncing the body dead. We felt *Pot Black* had outlived its natural life."

"In these days of wall to wall TV snooker its format of one frame matches no longer seems appropriate."

The commentator Ted Lowe, who put forward the idea and has remained its presenter, said yesterday he was very disappointed by the news.

Fowler appeal ruling delayed

The Court of Appeal reserved judgement yesterday in an appeal by Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, for his bed and breakfast regulations for the unemployed to be declared lawful.

The appeal judges are being asked to overturn a decision by Mr Justice Mann in the High Court in July, that the minister exceeded his powers in introducing the new regulations without them first being embodied in an Act of Parliament.

Prime advert space for Austin

Austin-Rover has won an 18-month battle for battle for the most spectacular advertising sites in Europe - a 40ft-high electronic message board and clock just completed at Heathrow Airport.

The company is believed to be paying nearly £1 million for its exclusive use over the next three years.

Taxman 'harasses' small businesses

By Teresa Poole

Small businessmen are being browbeaten by the Inland Revenue into paying too much tax because government policies to combat the black economy are mis-directed, according to a report by the National Federation of Self Employed and Small Businesses.

"The considerable powers of the Inland Revenue are being used to harass and coerce the small businessman into paying vast sums of money which are not lawfully due", Mr Tony Miller, NFSE tax committee chairman and author of the report, said.

It is estimated that the black economy costs at least £4 billion a year in lost taxes. There were more than 70,000 tax investigations in 1984, and a large proportion concerned small businesses and the self-employed.

The NFSE claims that the Inland Revenue is taking the "soft option" in investigating small businesses, rather than looking for moonlighters with an undeclared second job and ghost activities not reported to the authorities.

Small businesses and the self-employed have to file tax returns every year. The inspector can submit an estimated assessment if a case of tax evasion is suspected.

Mr Miller said the assessment is usually high enough to force an appeal. But in many cases it worked out cheaper to accept a higher tax bill than to continue a lengthy fight. Mr Brian Pice, NFSE policy unit chairman, said: "There must be something truly wrong with the system when it is cheaper to pay what the revenue demands than to employ an accountant."

The report criticizes tactics, citing unnecessary harassment and calculated pressure.

"Should similar methods be used to any other group, company or individual, to 'extract' money, then such methods would only be judged as extortion", Mr Prime said.

The Inland Revenue has 259 staff employed on investigating the activities of moonlighters and ghostworkers. "It is inaccurate to say there is a disproportionate amount of effort put into a single area of the black economy", a spokesman said. Investigations last year yielded £28 million in corporation tax evasion and £40 million in undeclared employee benefits such as tips.

The NFSE recommends the setting up of an independent taxation complaints body, to be headed by a tax ombudsman. Inland Revenue Enforcement Powers and the Black Economy, by Anthony Miller (National Federation of Self Employed and Small Businesses), 140 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7AE. £12.50.



James Pitcher, aged four, from Hitchin, Hertfordshire, with his design which won first prize in the under seven category of the NSPCC-BBC *Blue Peter* competition for Christmas card concepts. The Saunders Design Gallery in Covent Garden, London, is showing the designs until December 23. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Virgin offers fortnight for £299 in Miami

Mr Richard Branson yesterday launched a package tour company, Virgin Holidays, by offering 2,000 cut-price holidays to Florida. A two-week holiday at Miami Beach, with free car hire, will cost £299, a saving of up to £200.

The launch follows the granting of a licence to Virgin Atlantic, the airline owned by Mr Branson, to start flights between Gatwick and Miami. He hopes the rise in the value of the pound will encourage more Britons to go on holiday to the United States.

Detective 'lost control' after colleague's stabbing

A Scotland yard detective told the Central Criminal Court yesterday that he lost control and lunged at a man questioning after the stabbing of an undercover colleague. "I could not believe how cheaply he treated life", he said.

The incident was described yesterday as Det Sgt Anthony Yeoman gave evidence on the arrest of Mr Kenneth Noye, aged 38, at his home at West Kingsdown, Kent, last January when Det Con John Fordham was stabbed to death.

Mr Noye, a property developer, and Mr Brian Reader, aged 45, a businessman, have pleaded not guilty to the murder of DC Fordham, aged 45, who was stabbed 10 times.

PC Bruce Finlayson said when asked if he had stabbed DC Fordham Mr Noye said: "Yeah, I did him before he took the knife from me."

Det Con Frederick Bird, a scenes of crime officer, told the court that Mr Noye had said: "I did not know he was a police officer. All I saw was this chap in camouflage gear and balaclava mask. I would not have stabbed him if I had known he was a police officer."

The case continues today.

Law bodies discuss easing restrictions

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Critical talks take place today between leaders of the Bar and the Law Society which could pave the way towards ending some of the profession's restrictive practices and improving legal services for the consumer.

On the agenda are two of the most hotly contested issues between the two branches of the profession: the extent solicitors should be allowed to appear in the higher courts, and the question of direct access by barristers to clients.

By convention the Bar has a monopoly of rights of audience in all higher courts, and barristers must make contact with clients only through solicitors.

The talks coincide with an important Court of Appeal test case today to determine whether solicitors should have the right to appear in formal and unopposed matters in the High Court.

Since the launching of that action last month relations between the Bar and the Law Society have been somewhat frosty.

Meanwhile, the Lord Chancellor has taken steps to implement a proposal of the 1979 Royal Commission on Legal Services that solicitors should have a right of audience in any court in formal or unopposed proceedings.

The Law Society has drawn up a wide-ranging list of cases which it considers should be covered.

In response the Bar is to raise the question of barristers appearing without solicitors in attendance, and direct access to clients in international arbitrations.

Yesterday the Law Society said it was happy to look at all these matters but only within the wider context of "a restructuring of the profession as a whole".

Genetic 'prints' to be tested in court

A revolutionary scientific technique called "genetic fingerprinting" is to be used to try murderers and rapists, the Home Office announced yesterday.

The technique, developed by scientists at Leicester University, can accurately match blood and semen samples.

More laboratory checks have still to be made but the Home Office expects a test case to be brought before the courts within a few months.

A Home Office spokesman said genetic fingerprinting was an expensive and lengthy process, taking two weeks to complete. It is likely to be used mainly in murder and rape cases at first.

The spokesman said: "The procedure is very complicated but it provides the scientists with a DNA (Deoxy Ribonucleic Acid) fingerprint which has been shown to be specific to a particular individual."

The breakthrough is of particular importance in rape cases because the DNA fingerprint is also carried by the sperm in semen. The police hope it will give them a genetic fingerprint of all reported rapists or sex attackers.

The only apparent loophole is that identical twins share the same genetic fingerprint.

Royal course

Captain Mark Phillips is to hold lecture demonstrations on horsemanship at the Glasgow Hotel in Scotland. He will use a radio microphone and his own team of four horses in a specially-built arena to teach guests paying £295 a head for the courses on two consecutive weekends in February.

Top hostelry

The Old Thatch Inn at Cheriton Bishop, near Exeter, has been named as Britain's first "Routiers of the Year", the wayside inn most like traditional French hostelry.

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Agreement not slippery slope to Irish unity

ULSTER

The Anglo-Irish agreement, by reinforcing the principle of consent, should make the Unionist community of Northern Ireland feel more secure than they have in the past, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, declared in the Commons when she opened the two-day debate on the agreement.

It did not, she added, set them on some imagined slippery slope to Irish unity.

The Government embarked on this agreement, she said, because they were not prepared to see the two communities forever locked into the tragedies and antagonisms of the past.

The younger generation above all (she went on) has a right to expect more than that. The price of new hope is persistent endeavour. That is what we ask and ask equality of all.

Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, supporting the agreement, said the common cause of peace was a greater cause than the preservation of the miserable and murderous status quo. However, Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Official Unionist Party, said the agreement would destroy any possibility of achieving peace, stability and reconciliation.

We must brace ourselves (he warned) for renewed onslaught from a terrorist movement convinced of victory.

Mrs Thatcher, moving the Government motion to approve the Anglo-Irish agreement, said that since 1969 nearly 3,500 people had lost their lives in Northern Ireland as a result of terrorism, over 750 of them members of the security forces.

There had also been further loss of life among the armed forces, police and civilians in the rest of the United Kingdom, including three MPs. That was the stark background to the debate.

It is apparent (she said) that any initiative, however modest, to bring the people of Northern Ireland closer together to beat the terrorists raises emotions and fears rooted deep in the past. I understand these fears, although I do not believe them to be justified.

The Unionist community (she said), firmly loyal to the Crown and to the United Kingdom, represents a proud tradition of devotion to the union which everyone in this island should respect - and which this agreement does respect. They have a right to feel that the Anglo-Irish agreement does not threaten Northern Ireland's position as part of the United Kingdom.

This agreement, by reinforcing the principle of consent, should make them feel more secure, not only today but in the future. Unionists have the assurance that neither an Irish Government, nor of course a British Government, will try to impose new constitutional arrangements upon them against their will.

The nationalist community thought of themselves as Irish in terms of their identity, their social and cultural traditions and their political aspirations.

This House (she continued) can respect their identity too - and acknowledge their aspirations, even though we may not see the prospect of their fulfilment.

The only lasting way to put an end to the violence and achieve the peace and stability in Northern Ireland is reconciliation between these two communities - that is the goal of this agreement.

Article 1 of the agreement made abundantly clear that there was no threat whatsoever to the Unionist's heartfelt desire to remain part of the UK. It provided in a formally binding international accord, a recognition by the Irish Government that the status of Northern Ireland would remain unchanged as long as that was the wish of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland. It also recognised that the present wish of a majority was for no change in that status.

There can be no better reply to the fears which have been expressed in this House (she said) than this explicit recognition of the legitimacy of the Unionists' position.

Article 2 established an intergovernmental conference. This would have no executive authority either now or in the future.

It would consider on a regular basis political, security and legal matters, including the administration of justice, as well as cross-border co-operation on security, economic and cultural matters. This co-operation would not be a one-way street.

If devolution was restored in Northern Ireland, then those matters that become the responsibility of the devolved government would no longer be within the purview of the intergovernmental conference.

We hope (she said) that the agreement will encourage the constitutional representatives of both communities to come together to form a local administration acceptable to both. This hope has been specifically endorsed by the Irish Government.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland was exploring with the constitutional parties how best to make progress. Meanwhile, the assembly continues in being, with all its statutory responsibilities. Article 8 deals with legal matters, saying consideration would be given to the possibility of establishing mixed courts. The Government knew the difficulties which would be involved in mixed courts both in the north and the republic. It saw no easy or early way through those difficulties.

That is why (she said) although we are not considering in good faith the possibility of them at some future time, we have made it clear that we are under no commitment to introduce them.

The improvements in security cooperation in Article 9 should be further reinforced by the Irish Government's intention to accede to the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism. This would greatly increase our prospects of securing extradition from the Republic of persons accused or convicted of terrorist crimes. This will be a major step forward in the war against terrorism.

The possible establishment of an Anglo-Irish inter-parliamentary body was a matter for the two Parliaments rather than for the Governments to pursue.

She then turned to some of the issues which she said were not in the agreement.

It does not (she went on) set us on some imagined slippery slope to Irish unity. And it is nonsense to claim that it might. The effect of Article 1 is to confirm the provision in section 1 of the Northern Ireland Constitution Act of 1973 that Northern Ireland remains part of the United Kingdom as long as a majority there so wish. That again is a recognition of reality.

The guarantee for the majority lies in the fact that they are a majority. That fundamental point is reinforced by this agreement.

The agreement did not detract from British or Irish sovereignty. The British Government remained responsible for the government of Northern Ireland.

Yes (she added), we will listen to the views of the Irish Government. Yes we will make determined efforts to accommodate those views. But at the end of the day, decisions north of the border will continue to be made by the United Kingdom.

Government and south of the border by the Irish Government.

I want to dispel the absurd notion that the Government will listen to the views of the Republic on the Northern Ireland matters but not to the views of our own Unionist community.

Unionist MPs were an important channel and the Northern Ireland Assembly was an important and experienced body which could be used to improve the arrangements for consultation.

If the Anglo-Irish agreement (she went on) is to bring about a real improvement in the daily lives of the two communities in Northern Ireland, it must be matched by a determined effort on the part of the law-abiding citizens to defeat the men of violence. And that effort must rest on clear and consistent principles of justice, equity and fairness.

For if democracy is the rule of the majority, the other side of the coin is fairness and respect for the minority. For all of them are citizens of the United Kingdom.

The Government would continue to pay special attention to Northern Ireland's needs. Spending on its economic and social programmes had risen by 30 per cent in real terms since 1972-73 to £3,600 million last financial year, nearly £2,500 a head, far more than in any part of the UK.

If Parliament approved the agreement, the Government would steadily improve the situation. We shall not give way (she went on) to threats or to violence from any quarter. We shall look to the cooperation of all men and women of goodwill who want a better future for Northern Ireland and for their families.

Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury, C): Will the deliberations of the inter-governmental conference be made public and be debatable?

Mrs Thatcher said she was giving urgent consideration to how the Government would report the conference to the House.

She continued that far from representing any threat to the position of Northern Ireland within the UK, the agreement should give the Unionist community reassurance and new strength.

It clearly recognises (she went on) as it should, the validity of their great tradition. And it holds out the prospect of greater success in the struggle against terrorism from which they have suffered so much.

As one who believes in the union, I call upon the Unionists to take advantage of the chance offered by the agreement.

Mr Kinnock said however difficult it might be and however long it might take, they must never give up the search for a solution. That would be defeatism paid for in blood. Giving up the search for peace would be saying to the people of Northern Ireland: your agony must endure for ever. They could not and must not do that.

The Opposition would do whatever it could to promote the chances of peace, and the prosperity which depended on that peace. The status quo offered absolutely no solution to any one at all. For that reason, the Opposition would approve the Anglo-Irish agreement although, for reasons of accuracy, he wished it to be called the British-Irish agreement.

The success of the agreement would be so difficult to build and to prove, its failure, by contrast, would be easy to contrive.

The gunmen alone could not make the agreement fail. It would mean the most unholy alliance with those they most despised. The question was would that alliance be forged? There were MPs who could make a major contribution to providing the answer to that. They were not men of violence or even people who tolerated violence. They belonged to the unionist parties of Northern Ireland.

He recognised their fears. He knew they felt beleaguered and that they had been excluded from the peace process and that they lived in constant anxiety about a self-fulfilling prophecy that they would explain the intentions of the

agreement only heightened their feelings of fear.

He pleaded with the majority of non-Unionists not to be blinded by prejudice. They should see that the sole beneficiaries of a breakdown in the agreement would be the terrorists. He asked the non-Unionists to see the role of the Irish Government was consultative and no more and that even that role could be transferred by progress with devolution.

They could see that the basic reason for the involvement of the Irish Government even in this capacity, was to be found in the refusal or inability of constitutional Northern Ireland nationalists and nationalists to share power.

They should not let their feelings of slight and suspicion overwhelm them and leave them isolated as Unionists from all those people, north and south of the border and both sides of the water, who wanted to use the common language of peace as the means of defeating violence.

He asked non-Unionists to know that the motives of the constitutional nationalists south and north of the border, in making this agreement, were a convincing mixture of material self-interest and moral duty and not a cunning stratagem for unification by stealth with the British Government's agreement.

The suspicious would understandably ask what was in all this for Dr Flanagan, for Fine Gael, for the Irish Labour Party and for the SDLP. There were things in it for them and their parties. There was the possibility of promoting good will and the practical demonstration that they were trying to fulfil moral obligations to the whole of Ireland they loved with a special passion.

They should see the chance to combat the terrorists by intensified joint border measures and achieving extra credibility in Northern Ireland and in the rest of the world. They should see the possibility of throwing back the tide of terrorist nationalism which came with various pretences.

All these people and parties took great risks and brought great credit to themselves. They were trying earnestly against the odds piled up by history to put the purpose of securing peace against the easier course of courting popularity.

These are most definitely Irish nationalists (he said) but they are not front door agents for peace and not back door flirts of reunification. He did not underestimate the effort the Prime Minister had made in this activity.

I say without taint (he continued) that it has involved a significant and welcome adjustment in her position over the last six years. The change has been possible to proceed with the continuing pressures of tragedy but, also for her, punctuated by personal loss with the killing of Airey Neave and the death and destruction of the Brighton bombing. I recognise, therefore, her contribution freely and fully.

So it was not in any spirit of recrimination that he had to point out that the agreement would have been better served had she taken last year the advice of Mr Peter Archer and Mr Clive Soley (Opposition spokesmen on Northern Ireland) when they asked her to try to spell out the state of the New Ireland Forum was precipitate and peremptory. The Labour Party had been the only one in Britain which gave the Forum the interest it deserved through a section of an amendment to the Labour Party's contribution to the Forum in providing a coherent and cogent alternative review and set of proposals. That was the only opportunity for an informed debate but unfortunately that debate was killed before it really got started.

It might not have assuaged all force and silenced all of the shouts, but it would have been evidence of trust and consultation which could have provided an essential credential for the agreement now.

Also, Mrs Thatcher's response to the Forum was not the one which the Forum was intended to be. It was not the one which the Forum was intended to be. It was not the one which the Forum was intended to be.

He recognised their fears. He knew they felt beleaguered and that they had been excluded from the peace process and that they lived in constant anxiety about a self-fulfilling prophecy that they would explain the intentions of the

Had they proceeded along those lines perhaps the whole atmosphere of accord would have been more literal and the whole atmosphere in which the agreement had been made would have been more propitious.

Unemployment rates did not respect religious or political divisions. While violence could not be excused by poverty, idleness or unemployment, it could not be said to be unconnected with those evils. (Conservative protest).

Support for violence might come from political fanaticism or plain gangsterism, but it could only thrive on the Northern Ireland scale on the insecurity and alienation which insecurity bred. (Further Conservative protest).

I am telling the truth (he said) it is essential in Northern Ireland for the Prime Minister to adopt new policies to stimulate recovery.

Transport and tourism had obvious possibilities for joint economic strategies, and so did energy. It was about that British could exchange electricity supplies with the continent of Europe but Northern Ireland and the Republic could not.

They expected the Government to take deliberate steps which went beyond the current strategy of sending out letters and circulars to ensure a clear understanding among Unionist and nationalist communities of the nature, purpose, and potential and of the limitations of the agreement.

Exaggeration of hopes or fears would be no help to anyone. (Labour cheer). It would not impress the bullies or bigots on either side of the sectarian divide.

That still left the huge majority in both communities to be talked with, not talked at. There were surely opportunities for the British Parliament to communicate with those majorities.

Party wanted, as matter of policy and of commitment, to see Ireland united by consent and was committed to working actively to secure that. That was not the reason for their action in approving the Hillsborough accord.

The party recognised that priority was reconciliation in the communities of Northern Ireland, and between the communities. It was the party's objective which brought its agreement. He did not know whether, at some future time, unity would come from that reconciliation.

That would only be determined by the majority in future, in different conditions, under different leadership.

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C), who resigned from the Government over the Anglo-Irish agreement, asked how was it possible to proceed with a policy which might be broadly acceptable to a minority but which was totally unacceptable to the overwhelming majority, among whom was a very significant number of Catholic Unionists.

The Government believed that the majority ought to be well satisfied with the agreement and professed some surprise that it was not. Mr Guy O'Brien had put it well in his article in *The Times* today.

It was a grave over-simplification to equate religion with political allegiance. He had received letters from Catholic Unionists who endorsed his view.

Following the signing of the agreement at Hillsborough, the Prime Minister had said that she was a Unionist and a Loyalist. He would never question sincerity but he had to say to her that those words were received with incredulity by Unionists.

The Anglo-Irish agreement had been signed without understanding of the views of the people in Northern Ireland. It had been signed against a background which gave wholly disproportionate consideration to the views of the minority.

Under the agreement the Irish Government would put forward views and proposals on Northern Ireland. From its territory, murderous assaults had been made on the innocent in the Province and to it the guilty had returned to find, too often, a safe haven.

The British Government claimed it was a major step forward for the Government of the Republic to have given formal acceptance of Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom. If that was so, why was Article 2 of the Republic's constitution - which laid claim to the whole of the territory of the island of Ireland - not removed?

They were told this agreement would mean more effective cooperation in Northern matters between the Republic and the United Kingdom. Was it really suggested that without this agreement such cooperation would have been less effective?

Fellow countrymen in Northern Ireland would perceive - and they would not be wrong - that this agreement would have been signed unless there had been a long campaign of violence. The agreement would be perceived as having been won as a result of violence.

It was not the case that the violence was succeeding; the RUC and the UDR would perceive that they had been betrayed.

The Government asserted and continued to assert he said the change of status would come about only with the consent of the majority in Northern Ireland but I ask Government ministers to understand that the overwhelming majority of the people of Northern Ireland do actually believe there has been a change of status. So do I.

I fear this change will prolong and will not diminish Ulster's agony but with all my heart, and it is quite a big heart, I pray that I am wrong.

Mr James Prior (Waverley, C), a former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said they had to accept that while in the eyes of the rest of the United Kingdom the agreement made no difference to the status of Northern Ireland, in the eyes of the Unionists it did.

Quite frankly (he said) unless it changed that status in Northern Ireland, there was no chance of getting the minority community to accept it.

Neither Mr Molyneux nor Mr Gow had put up a convincing alternative. There was no other way than to take some chances in the interest of peace in Northern Ireland.

The Unionists should trust Mrs Thatcher and the House. He begged them to look again at their proposals to resign their seats.

Mr James Molyneux (Lagan Valley, OUP), leader of the Official Unionist Party, said the agreement snuffed out the 1984 policy paper *Way Forward*, which had been a shining beacon of peace, stability and reconciliation.

The IRA Army Council would be convinced that it had achieved two of its objectives by violence and that it could now extract the third one, which was united Ireland designed to the specifications of Dr FitzGerald, or even Mr Charles Haughey.

Many Roman Catholics had told him they shared his view the agreement.

They have it clear (he added) they do not wish to live in a cold war atmosphere created by this regime, for which some of them were responsible. There was no need for the Government to distribute copies of the agreement to every home in the Province as people had already read it out by heart. They understood very well what it meant.

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He gave the agreement a fair wind but in the full and absolute knowledge of the awful obstacles in the way of its ever attaining what it set out to attain.

He had received hundreds of letters and telephone calls in recent weeks from decent Unionists and Protestants who made it clear they did not want the Rev Ian Paisley as their spokesman and did not accept the ranting, raving rhetoric that had been heard on the streets of Belfast.

But there was a burning, bitter resentment existing among the Unionist population of Northern Ireland. The conference resulting from the agreement would be attended by representatives of the republican Government and there would be no Unionists or Protestants there, not even an observer to ally their fears.

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Do not cast them aside and say that as an invertebrate opponent of Unionism throughout my life. They are the people who are going to be affected by this agreement.

No one has his mind or heart so closed otherwise than some would not otherwise than

He had learnt the hard way through experience that progress could only be made slowly, one step at a time. The agreement offered an important step in the direction: it offered a real opportunity to make progress towards reconciliation between the two communities and to tackle cross-border terrorism in a determined way.

It was in the interests of all in Northern Ireland not to let the opportunity pass. The people in the rest of the United Kingdom would expect them to work constructively for its success.

Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, leader of the Opposition peers, said everyone wanted to solve the problems of Northern Ireland, but in their own way. It was a running sore which was sapping the strength of Britain and Northern Ireland.

It gave the United Kingdom's critics in the East and West, an opportunity to cast doubts on British claims to respect human rights and the freedom of the individual.

If the agreement would help even in a small way to bring an end to the senseless and evil conflict, it must be given full support.

It was misleading to try to frighten people into believing that sovereignty was at risk in this document. The British people would give their support to a fair wind. They would want to see how the governments at Westminster and in Dublin proposed to make it work effectively.

The small minority who sought to destroy it by violence would be misrepresented - misleading rhetoric would carry a heavy burden of guilt before history.

Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge (SDP), a former junior minister for Northern Ireland, said the two parties of the Alliance welcomed this agreement as a real step forward. It recognised the basic principles which were essential if peace was ever to return to Northern Ireland.

He had many valued friends among the Unionists and begged them to believe the Government's word that the agreement meant exactly what it said, no more and no less.

Lord Fitt (Ind) said if they set out with an inordinate degree of optimism and the agreement did not turn out to be what they would want to be, the despair and

disenchantment would be all the greater.

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AVAILABLE FROM: LONDON: A.B.C. BUSINESS MACHINES, BAKERS OF WOOLWICH, CAREY STATIONERS (WATFORD), CONDIT OFFICE SUPPLIES, BURCOALCO, HARRODS (ELECTRONICS), DON HOUSE, MYTECLAN, MYTRE BUSINESS SYSTEMS, RAMSONS, SELFISH, SINGOLD, W.H. SMITH & SON LIMITED, SOUTH LONDON STATIONERS, WAGNER & CO. LTD. WESTING VIDEO, WRIGHTS DISCOUNT STORES, BEEB, REMBER, BRADLEY, BRADFORD, PROBYNS CAMBRIDGE, HEPERS, CHELMSFORD, H.I. CLARKE, HANTS, COMMERCIAL & GENERAL TYPEWRITERS, HARRISONS, L.T.C., G.B. MICROLAND, HERTS, BOURNEMOUTH H.I.F. KENT: GERBING OF KENTWOOD, PHOTOCOPY BUSINESS MACHINES, MITOX, B.B. PHOTO SUPPLIES, HARROW BUSINESS SERVICES, MIDLAND & F.T. TRADING, OFFPRINT BUSINESS MACHINES, DRYDEN & CO. EQUIPMENT, TAKEDA, VALLANCE, WILKINGS (IN STORE AT LEWIS), NEWCASTLE: H.W.S. OF NEWCASTLE, NORWICH: JAKROIDS, SURREY: LANDAU (SUTTON), SUTTLES OF PHOTO, SURREX OFFICE MACHINERY, ENGINEERING, WEST COAST: H. ROCKING & SON, IDEAS, SCOTLAND: BUSINESS & ELECTRONIC MACHINES, JAMES JACKSON, GEORGE WATERSONS, CHANNEL ISLANDS: COLLINS, GRUTTS

Kohl will press Thatcher to think again and stay in Unesco

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Chancellor Kohl of West Germany will make a strong appeal for Britain to remain in Unesco when he meets Mrs Margaret Thatcher at 10 Downing Street today.

The chancellor, with his ministers of foreign affairs and defence and the State Secretary for Economic Affairs, is in London for the 17th in a series of Anglo-German summits.

German diplomatic sources say Herr Kohl will tell Mrs Thatcher that he believes the recent general conference of Unesco in Sofi has satisfied many British and West German reservations about the organization. He will urge her to continue to press for reform from within rather than by withdrawing from it.

Herr Kohl's intervention in the Unesco debate comes as the British government is about to decide whether to fulfil its threat to withdraw from the organization at the end of the year. A decision is expected early next month.

Herr Kohl's exhortation to stay in Unesco will to some extent act as a counter-balance to advice coming from Washington that Britain should follow the US example, by leaving Unesco. Britain's other European partners, as well as

members of the Commonwealth, have also urged the Government to rescind its notice to quit.

Unesco will only be one of several issues the two leaders will discuss during their day-long talks.

Other main areas will include arms control issues, and in particular planned British and West German participation in the Star Wars space defence research programme. They will also discuss European Community affairs, international questions and bilateral relations.

The meeting is particularly timely as it comes so soon after the Geneva summit and just before next week's important European summit in Luxembourg, which will attempt to resolve the many differences over the broad issue of European union which led to the failure of the previous summit in Milan in the summer.

German sources say there are now no serious disagreements between Britain and West Germany on the issues to be discussed in Luxembourg next week, although there are still some differences on approach and points of detail.

Triumph for British TV at Emmy ceremony

New York (AP) - British programmes swept four of the five categories at the 13th annual international Emmy awards for television, while a West German programme won in the fifth.

Only *Das Boot*, which was nominated for six Oscars when released as a feature film in the United States, broke the British domination of the awards on Monday night.

David Attenborough was presented with the Founder's Award "for enriching worldwide viewers with an enlightened view of the world we inhabit". The award has been presented only five times in 13 years.

The other winners were: Documentary category: *28 Up*, about the achievements of 28-year-olds living up to their ambitions as 7-year-olds. Performing arts category: *The Treble*, a BBC production tracing the story of a successful boy singer and his problems when his voice begins to change. Popular arts category: *Spitting Images*, a satire programme. Children's category: *Supergran*, the tale of an old lady who becomes a superwoman able to overcome the forces of evil.

The awards were presented by the International Council of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.



David Attenborough with the Founder's Award, presented for "enriching worldwide viewers with an enlightened view of the world we inhabit".

£4m offer for guru's Rolls

Rajneeshpuram, Oregon (AP) - A Texas car collector flew here yesterday to try to close a \$6 million (£4 million) deal for the 79 Rolls-Royces owned by followers of the Indian guru, Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

Mr Bob Roethlisberger, owner of European Auto Group of Carrollton, Texas, spent the afternoon in negotiations with executives of the Rajneesh Investment Corporation. The guru has left the country

Afghanistan report denounces Russians

Hostile zones laid waste

From Zoriana Pszyrsky, New York

A United Nations report on human rights in Afghanistan accuses Soviet occupying forces of pursuing a scorched earth campaign in regions outside their control, resulting in human rights violations on a greater scale than witnessed before in the six-year war.

The report was prepared by Herr Felix Ermacora, an Austrian law professor who has participated in UN inquiries into human rights violations in Chile and South Africa. It is one of several reports issued for the General Assembly which today begins to debate political and civil liberties in Guatemala, El Salvador and Chile as well as in Iran and Afghanistan which were being held up to Assembly scrutiny for the first time.

Professor Ermacora, who was appointed special rapporteur for

Afghanistan by the Human Rights Commission last year, failed to gain co-operation from the Afghan authorities who labelled his mission a Western-inspired propaganda effort.

He has instead pieced together information from human rights organizations and eye-witness accounts of refugees interviewed in Pakistan. According to the report, human rights violations permeate all aspects of Afghan life, from arbitrary arrests and conscription of children to the destruction of mosques and bombardment of villages.

The study covers the period from January to September of this year, and as well as documenting allegations of abuse, offers an insight into recent military tactics employed by the Soviet Union.

Herr Ermacora concludes that Soviet forces have embarked on a policy of forcing the population to leave the country and gives warning entire tribes are threatened with extinction.

According to analysts who have studied the report, the aim of the Soviet Union seems to be to create a new Afghan population which has not fled to neighbouring countries but has been driven into towns and cities under firm Russian control while the rest of the territory has been turned into a wasteland, no longer capable of feeding the Afghan resistance movement.

The report gives accounts of children who have had their arms or legs blown off by mines shaped like pens, harmonicas, match-boxes and birds.

There has been no official Afghan reaction to the report, but Afghan officials in the past have rejected allegations of human rights abuse as unfounded.

Professor Ermacora's efforts are in sharp contrast to human rights studies submitted on Iran by Senor Andres Aguilar and on Guatemala by Viscount Colville of Culross, a Conservative peer.

Lord Colville has often been criticized by delegates and human rights groups for attempting to find justification for violations in Guatemala in his reports, but Senor Aguilar's failure to pass judgement on accusations of abuse in Iran has surprised many diplomats.

Convoys leave Kabul

Delhi - Soviet military convoys have fanned out of the Afghan capital, Kabul, to conduct operations in four areas nearby, according to Western diplomats in Delhi yesterday (Michael Hamlyn writes).

The four areas are the Shomali, Paghman, The Logar Valley and Wardak province.

The diplomats say the largest Soviet army convoy seen in recent memory poured out of the military encampment at Khair Khana last week and took the main road towards Wardak province and Ghazni.

More than 350 vehicles were counted, including tanks and armoured troop carriers.

Soviet and Afghan troops also carried out a three-day operation in Paghman province last weekend, but there were few reports of engagements since most of the Mujahid guerrillas have left the valley and moved either south into Tanglel or west to Sanglakh.

Diplomats said, however, that Afghan villages were bombed and civilians killed in the attacks and that a number of isolated villages have been completely emptied.

Cold snap exposes fatal flaw

Coal goes off the rails in Poland

In a third and final article on the energy crisis facing socialist bloc states, ROGER BOYES, East Europe Correspondent, reports on conditions in Poland.

Coal has joined women's underwear, quality meat, car tyres, black and white television sets and vacuum cleaners in that long, long catalogue of goods in short supply in Poland.

As the temperatures drop so the queues grow, full of foot-stamping, red-faced women, forming and re-forming outside the coal depots like molecular diagrams.

Why is there a coal shortage in Poland? Last winter, as cold as anyone can remember, there was enough coal to go round.

This year the miners have been working well: output in the first nine months is 500,000

tonnes. Coal was to be given top priority on the railway lines.

The result was a compound fracture in the rest of industry, and furious complaints to the Government. Outside the ports of Gdynia and Swinoujscie last month there were six ships, with 243,000 tonnes of ore, unable to unload because there were no goods wagons.

The whole steel industry is slowing down because ore, dolomite, even sand is not arriving and because finished and semi-finished products cannot be taken away. "It is," as one industrial specialist said, in that charming Polish phrase, "as chaotic as a bordello."

The confusion says something rather profound about Poland. The country used to be the third largest maker of goods wagons, after the Soviet Union and the United States.

But lack of investment and of cash to buy unloading equipment - everything must be unloaded manually with pick-axes and the anti-freeze available works only for temperatures of -10C or warmer - means that every day there is a shortfall of about 4,000 wagons.

Despite the talk of economic reform, there has been a serious neglect of Poland's economic infrastructure, the road and railways, the water and sewage systems, and the social network, the schools and the hospitals.

Anything that has not been earmarked directly for export and for earning dollars has been put on the back burner. The country is thus beginning to split at the seams, and it is winter that exposes most cruelly these cracks in society.

Overcrowded, cold hospitals become more crowded and even more prone to cross-infection. Schools have to close down when the temperature sinks dramatically because there is simply no means adequately to heat them.

And the economy languishes; it has to, because, like a former US president who allegedly could not walk and chew gum at the same time, it cannot cope with the simultaneous occurrence of a harsh winter and a mild economic recovery.

Concluded



tonnes more than in the same period last year, and the overall total for 1985 will be about 191 million tonnes, not a vintage yield, but respectable. Yet still there is a coal shortage.

The reason is not to be found in higher exports, which are down by 500,000 tonnes compared with the same period last year, but in a fatal flaw in the transport system that takes coal from the mines to power stations and to factories.

Economic growth is picking up, and industry is demanding more energy. But there are not enough of those gaily-waggoned that always seem to be blocking the railway line.

In September a spot check discovered 3,000,000 tonnes of coal lying, abandoned like slag, at pithead sidings throughout Silesia. A crisis meeting was held in Katowice: if Romania can switch off electricity for hours on end and hold living-room temperatures down to 12C (54F), then Poland can adopt radical measures.

All railway goods wagons would have to be returned immediately to Silesia. The Government banned the loading of goods wagons with anything other than coal for four days a

British athletes among dead in Iowa crash

Des Moines, (AP) - A twin-engine aircraft carrying members of the Iowa State University cross-country team crashed into a residential area here, killing seven people on board, including two British women.

The plane, one of three flying members of the men's and women's teams and coaching staff from Milwaukee back to Ames, where the university is located, crashed on Monday in a freezing drizzle, missing a house by yards, Sergeant Bill Mullins said.

Seven bodies were found in the wreckage, Sergeant Mullins said, as firefighters searched the charred hulk, which lay crumpled at the base of a tree.

● Sports scholars: The two Britons killed were Julie Rose, of Ashford, Kent, and Susan Baxter of Brentwood, Essex.

Miss Baxter, a member of Essex Ladies, was in the top 15 in Britain at 1,500 metres and Miss Rose, of the Ashford club, won the English schools' 1,500 metres event in 1981.

Appreciation, page 20

Dispute denied over Europe's refugee crisis

Stockholm - Swedish and British officials were at pains to play down the significance of the secret seven-nation meeting to discuss Europe's refugee crisis which ended here yesterday (Our Correspondent writes).

A statement said the aim of the meeting had been "to exchange experiences and discuss further international efforts in response to the growing problem".

Reports of a clash between Mr Paul Harting, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and representatives of the seven countries involved, Britain, West Germany, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark and The Netherlands.

Mr Harting, however, is known to have argued strongly for more humane treatment of people seeking political asylum, while the seven nations emphasized the need to reduce the numbers of refugees reaching Europe.

The meeting was arranged by the Swedish Ministry of Labour, which imposed a news blackout.

£3,000 by 3 o'clock.

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The bank that likes to say YES.



PERSONAL LOAN APPLICATION FORM

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

1. PERSONAL DETAILS

Full name: Customer 1 (Mr/Mrs/Miss) **MR JAMES MARSHALL**

Customer 2 (Mr/Mrs/Miss) (Joint accounts only)

Address: **3 VICTORIA ROAD, BELPER, DERBYSHIRE**

Number of dependent children under 18: **2**

Your date of birth: Customer 1: **1958** Customer 2:

Are you: Single ☐ Married ☒ Widowed ☐ Separated/Divorced ☐ Other ☐

Is your present home owned by you ☒ Owned/rented by your parents ☐ Rented ☐ Other ☐

Tel. Nos. Home: **829121** Work: **829122**

Time at your present address: **4** yrs **2** mths.

If less than 3 years please give your previous address:

2. YOUR EMPLOYMENT

Customer 1: Your occupation: **SEED MANAGER**

Your employer's name and address: **BROWN'S (OUTFITTERS) LTD, HIGH STREET, BELPER**

Time employed there: **3** yrs **—** mths.

If less than two years please give the name and address of your previous employer:

Customer 2 (Joint accounts only): Your occupation:

Your employer's name and address:

Time employed there: yrs mths.

If less than two years please give the name and address of your previous employer:

3. LOAN DETAILS

Purpose of Loan: **CAR**

Purchase price of item: **£3000**

The amount you are putting down yourself: **£1000**

Amount you wish to borrow: **£2000**

Payable over: **36** months

Date when you wish your monthly payments to commence: **1 DECEMBER 1985**

4. YOUR INCOME/OUTGOINGS

Your Net Monthly Income (take home pay): **£520** per month

Salary/Wages: **£520** per month

Husband/Wife's income: **£45** per month

Other income: **£565** per month

Total: **£565**

Your regular outgoings per month: Mortgage/Rent: **£156**

Instalment credit/hire purchase: **£—**

Other loans or commitments: **£156**

Total: **£156**

5. YOUR BANK/BUILDING SOCIETY

Please give the name and address of your bank/building society. (If you have no bank account give the name and address of a building society branch where you have an account.) If you have neither, leave blank.

TSB, KING STREET, BELPER, DERBYSHIRE, DE5 1EX

If you have a TSB cheque account please give your account number: **770506 04207160**

6. ACCIDENT, SICKNESS AND UNEMPLOYMENT COVER

If you do NOT require cover please tick here and delete section marked "below" ☐

☒ I/We confirm that the above information is correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief, and agree that the Bank may make any enquiries it thinks fit regarding this application.

*I/We hereby authorise TSB to include the insurance premium in the amount advanced and to pay the premium to the insurers.

I/We understand that for joint borrowers the free life insurance and, where selected, the accident, sickness and unemployment cover apply only to the first-named borrower.

Signature Customer 1: _____ Date: _____

Customer 2: _____ Date: _____

Example of monthly repayments. Interest 12% per annum flat.

£1,000 loan including accident, sickness and unemployment insurance

12 mths: APR 23.78% 24 mths: APR 23.91% 36 mths: APR 23.48%

Insurance premium: £89.66 £109.60 £142.35

Total interest: 130.74 266.32 411.41

Monthly payment: 101.70 57.33 43.16

Total amount payable: 1,220.40 1,375.92 1,553.76

£1,000 loan excluding accident, sickness and unemployment insurance

12 mths: APR 23.78% 24 mths: APR 23.91% 36 mths: APR 23.48%

Total interest: £119.96 £240.08 £360.08

Monthly payment: 93.33 51.67 37.78

Total amount payable: 1,119.96 1,240.08 1,360.08

Interest rate and calculations correct at 15th November 1985.

BANK USE ONLY TSB ☐ E/S ☐ T/C ☐ SEG ☐ SAWDEP ☐ MOR ☐ CR ☐

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Tragedy of hijack gamble that went wrong

From Colin Hughes in Valletta

The storming of the Egyptian Boeing 737 by Egyptian commandos in Malta, which left 59 passengers and three hijackers dead, underlines the danger in using force to overpower determined terrorists.

In the cramped tube of a sealed aircraft packed with passengers and with hijackers who apparently care as little for their own lives as those of their hostages, the chances of successfully avoiding innocent deaths in retrospect seem small.

It now appears that the 25 commandos, who carried out their operation in secrecy and left Malta airport without revealing their tactics, gathered no intelligence on the appearance or position of the four hijackers before their assault. Anti-terrorist tactics normally rely on choosing the best psychological moment for swift action, backed up by detailed information on the attackers' targets.

Few of those survivors who had left the aircraft before the storming were interviewed by security forces, and they gave contradictory information about the hijackers' descriptions, and the inside of the aircraft. The Egyptian Task Force soldiers were at first unable to distinguish fleeing

passengers from the hijackers themselves, and some survivors say that the commandos fired indiscriminately at those escaping from the fire on board.

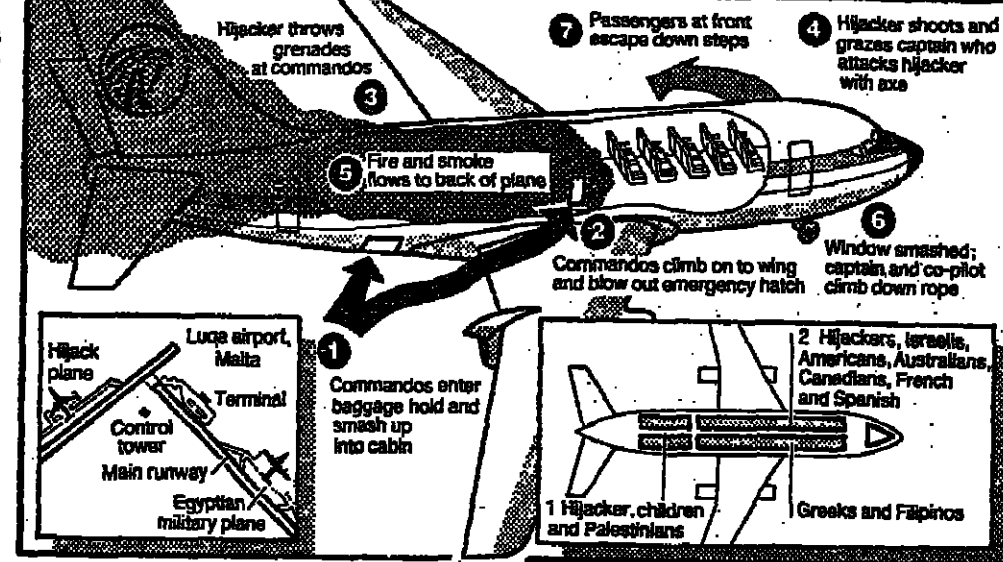
It also seems possible that the hijackers used two grenades to kill themselves, also killing passengers.

The assault began when four floodlights over the aircraft were doused in a general blackout and aircraft heading for Luqa airport were instructed to divert to Sicily.

The commandos crept up in darkness to place charges on the baggage hold. The hijacker at the rear of the aircraft dropped his grenade on hearing the noise, killing all the children on board, mostly Palestinian, who had been moved to the back of the cabin.

As the first commando came up through the cabin floor a second grenade was thrown from the front of the cabin towards him, blowing his legs off, and injuring another commando behind him.

In fact, very few of the Egyptian soldiers entered the cabin. The hijackers at the front had placed the third grenade as a booby trap on the main front left hand door, which passengers assumed



Moments of drama as the Luqa airport hijack storming ends in deaths and disaster

meant they expected an attack. That grenade went off when commandos ran up the steps and tried to force an entry, immediately killing another two hijackers.

That account is based on the impression of those sitting near the front of the aircraft who survived, but local Maltese newspapers yesterday evening gave a different account. They said that the two hijackers at the front of the cabin opened the main door, threw the third

grenade back into the cabin and ran out down the steps towards the runway apron.

They were firing as they went, the reports said, but were shot at the bottom of the steps by the commandos as the first Maltese security staff, fire engines and emergency medical teams arrived to deal with the blaze and injured people.

In the cockpit, the hijackers' leader apparently heard the first grenade go off and shot at the

head of Hani Galal, the captain, grazing his scalp. The captain snatched an emergency hatchet and knocked out the hijacker, smashed the cockpit window and scrambled out down a rope, followed by his pilot.

The cruel irony was that several of those whom the hijackers had singled out to be placed where they would have been most safe from an assault on the main door, either at the back or down the right hand side,

were in the worst position when the assault turned into bloody chaos.

An Australian who was next on the list and a Frenchman and Spanish woman who were high on the list managed to climb clear of the fire which immediately swept through the cabin, and escaped down the steps. For them, the attack was a reprieve they had given up hoping for.

But, tragically, a Canadian woman with her baby died in the grenade blast, together with a Frenchman and a Spaniard. Of the 17 Greeks who had been marshalled into the front right-hand seats, six survived with injuries; three out of 14 Filipino men sitting behind them lived. But only two of the Egyptian men sitting at the rear survived.

The most fortunate were three Egyptian security guards who had been kept lying in the aisle; they were low enough to avoid the blast, and among the first to leap clear.

Most of the commandos were surrounding the plane or underneath it, and were apparently so confused that they started firing erratically. It seems unlikely, however, that passengers were hit by commando bullets in the mayhem since none of those taken to hospital after the storming had bullet wounds.

Mamelodi deaths worry churches

From Ray Kennedy Johannesburg

An investigation into the killing of 13 people when police opened fire in Mamelodi township outside Pretoria last week is likely to be set up by the Pretoria Council of Churches after the Government's apparent reluctance to hold an independent judicial inquiry.

Disquiet is growing about the events in Mamelodi where television camera crews and reporters were barred, although the township technically falls outside the state of emergency areas subject to the Government's latest restrictions on media coverage.

At least 13 people died and some reports have put the number of injured as high as 100. It was the most serious single incident since police fired on funeral marchers in Langaville in the Eastern Cape in March, killing 20 people.

President Botha ordered Mr Justice Donald Kameyama to investigate the Mamelodi affair and he found that police on the spot had ignored standing orders about the issuing of anti-riot equipment and that there was a degree of indiscipline among some of the police involved.

The Star in Johannesburg commented yesterday that the Mamelodi inquiry served to dispel rumours that the actual death toll was much higher than the official one and that a similar inquiry into the Mamelodi affair would be in the interests of everyone. It said there were alarming discrepancies between the accounts of the police and independent witnesses.

Dr Nico Smith, chairman of the Pretoria Council of Churches, said yesterday: "We have received spontaneous requests from the people of Mamelodi to hold our own inquiry into the causes of the unrest and to determine what actually took place."

Dr Smith, a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church in Mamelodi, recently abandoned plans, under government pressure, to lead a delegation of clergymen in talks with the banned African National Congress (ANC) in Zambia.

Mr Peter Soal, of the official white opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFP) claims that organisers of a protest march in Mamelodi made a deal with the police that it could go ahead if no banners were carried and there was no singing.

RAF to end £20m Ethiopia airlift

The RAF airlift to Ethiopian drought victims is to end next month, but Britain will continue to give other forms of relief next year (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

The decision to end the airlift, revealed yesterday in a reply by Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development, to a written Parliamentary question, was taken because of the improved situation in Ethiopia. There has been a good harvest, and there are enough lorries to transport supplies to areas still suffering food shortages.

Two RAF Hercules transport planes have carried more than 30,000 tonnes of relief supplies in a £20 million operation. Britain had offered £5 million for projects next year in addition to its EEC contribution.

Second nurse given 25 years

Bangkok (Reuters) - Kerry Anne Morrison, aged 28, a nurse from Sydney, who tried to smuggle heroin to Australia in her underwear was jailed for 25 years in Bangkok criminal court.

She and Karen Marie Peaseley, aged 27, also of Sydney, who was jailed last week for 25 years, were arrested at Bangkok airport with 3.5lb of top grade heroin.

Waite meeting

New York (AP) - Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy seeking the release of four American hostages in Beirut, met the UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuellar, and said he would be going to Washington to meet Vice-President Bush.

Cash penalty

Abidjan (AFP) - Liberian security staff sought convincing travellers to smuggle the Liberian dollar out of the country are to be executed, the Finance Minister, Mr G. Alvin Jones, said.

Hardliner out

Berlin (AFP) - Herr Konrad Naumann, aged 57, a reputed hardliner removed on Friday from the East German Communist Party. Politburo, has also had to relinquish his post as East Berlin party chief, the party daily Neues Deutschland said.

Chernenko bust

Moscow (AP) - A memorial relief portrait of President Chernenko, who died in March, was unveiled at his former home in honour of his contributions to the Communist Party and to the Soviet state.

38 times wed

Peking (Reuters) - A 102-year-old peasant in the Xinjiang region has married 38 times, and 33 other centenarians there have married between two and 15 times, the China Daily said. Xinjiang has 865 people aged over 100.

15 Poles freed

Warsaw (Reuters) - Poland has released 15 political prisoners in recent days, raising to 125 the total freed this month under a "humanitarian initiative", the official newspaper Rzeczpospolita said.

Woman of Year

Johannesburg (Reuters) - Dr Wendy Orr, aged 25, who testified that police were assaulting dissidents systematically in custody, was named Woman of the Year by The Star newspaper here.

Kenyatta slight

Nairobi (AP) - President Moi dismissed Mr Martin Shikuku, Assistant Minister of the Environment, for having quoted Kenya's founding father, Jomo Kenyatta, in a "derogatory and contemptuous manner."

Trawlers held

San Sebastian (Reuters) - Irish Navy patrol boats fired on five Spanish trawlers fishing in Irish waters and escort two of them to Cork, according to a radio monitoring station here.

Culture forum confident on détente

Mr Walter Stössel told the closing session: "In spite of the fact that we have Budapest without a final document, the forum, to its credit, has made an important contribution. That it has taken part at all is itself a significant development."

The Soviet delegate, Mr Yuri Kirichenko, said: "There is every ground to consider the forum has gone on successfully."

A last-minute proposal by Hungary that the participating states issue a short uncontroversial statement was agreed by all delegations except that of its fellow Warsaw Pact member, Romania, which vetoed it.

Athens protest on commando raid

Malta blamed by Greece

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greece blamed the Maltese Government for the bloody outcome of the Egyptian hijack. Mr Karolos Ntoulis, the Greek Foreign Minister, said he had protested to his Maltese opposite number about the decision to allow the assault by Egyptian commandos and insisted that Athens should have been consulted in advance in view of the large number of Greek passengers on board.

"I do not believe that all the possibilities to avoid a blood-bath were exhausted," he said. "We do things differently here, as we proved during the previous hijack," referring to the exchange of a terrorist caught in Athens with a number of passengers of a hijacked TWA jet in June.

Mr Papoulas revealed that Greece had approached "governments it thought could have influenced or created the prerequisites for a happy conclusion" of the Maltese hijack. "But our efforts were not followed up by the Maltese Government", he said.

Asked if Libya was among the countries approached, he answered in the affirmative. He later explained that this was not because Greece thought Libya was involved, but because it thought the hijackers had asked to negotiate with the Libyan and Algerian ambassadors in Malta.

He denied insinuations in a report in the semi-official Cypriot newspaper, *Al Ahran*, alleging that the hijack had been organized by the "main operations room of Libyan intelligence", which, it said, had moved from West Germany to Athens where it was operating under the front of a branch of the "Libyan Maritime Transport Company". The paper named the company executives allegedly running the terrorist operations.

Mr Papoulas said: "I absolutely and categorically deny that any headquarters of any foreign organization operate in Athens or Greece. We are friendly with all Arab countries

but refuse to be dragged into their in-fighting."

The Greek minister deplored the efforts by some "incorrigible circles" to put part of the blame for the hijack tragedy on Greece. He said he had lodged a protest with West Germany over assertions by Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, Bonn's Interior Minister, that Athens' airport security was lax.

Statements by the US Secretary of State and British and German pilots' unions confirming improved security at Athens airport were praised.

The minister insisted that Greek investigations had shown that the hijackers' weapons could not have passed through Athens airport.

Mr Menios Koutsyorgas, the Interior and Public Order Minister, said: "We have converging information that the weapons had been concealed aboard the plane in specific places before it took off from Cairo for Athens, for the hijackers to find."

Cairo says link with Libya clear

From Alice Brinton Cairo

President Mubarak of Egypt last night defended the storming of the Boeing 737 by commandos and said that Libya's connection with the hijack was clear. He added: "We will never leave a terrorist act unpunished."

Speaking to reporters for the first time since the hijack, Mr Mubarak made his remarks after meeting the Soviet Ambassador and Egypt's defence Minister, General Abu Ghazala, who, when asked if Egypt had any proof that the Libyans were responsible, answered curtly: "We have some."

Mr Mubarak was asked if Egypt was planning a retaliatory strike against Colonel Gaddafi's regime. He replied: "We are not calling for war. We are calling for peace. War is not a simple thing, we cannot take that decision simply."

He said that Egypt's next move in the crisis would be discussed later.

Doubts cast on use of sky marshals

By Rupert Morris

Many of the world's airline security experts yesterday confirmed their opposition to the use of sky marshals, whose role in the Maltese hijack appears to have misfired so catastrophically.

"The sky marshals' presence probably cost lives in this case," said Mr Martin Hodson, controller of Paladine Security, which employs British Special Forces personnel to train civilians in techniques for resisting terrorism.

Their action triggered a psychopathic response from the hijackers, making any sort of crisis management impossible. Unless the marshals are trained to Special Forces standards, one is bound to ask whether you can ride 'shotguns' on aircraft in this way without increasing the risk to passengers," he said.

Eye-witness accounts suggest that the first shot was fired by a sky marshal when he was challenged by a hijacker. He killed one hijacker before he was shot dead.

The British Airline Pilots' Association has consistently opposed the use of sky marshals on two grounds: people carrying weapons represent an increased risk because they may be

disarmed by a hijacker; and, to be effective, sky marshals must be spread around the plane, widening the range of targets.

The British Government disagreed with the United States when the subject was last raised at the International Civil Aviation Organization.

The US, Israel, Switzerland, Egypt, Jordan, Turkey and a handful of Middle Eastern states use armed sky marshals on flights which they believe are susceptible to terrorist action, although a majority of members of the International Air Transport Association remain opposed to their use.

A spokesman in Geneva yesterday said that events in Malta supported the majority view, but he did not expect the US, Israel or any of the others to change their view because they regarded armed protection as a part of their service.

Cavernous breach of security

From Christopher Thomas Washington

It has been the year of the spy. Arrests, defections and expulsions around the world have sounded alarm bells about the state of American national security. Love, money, ideology and revenge have all played their part. So has the amazing new world of high-tech snooping.

A disgruntled ex-wife started the first scandal. A Russian KGB agent fingered the latest suspect. This year at least 14 people have been arrested in the United States accused of spying. Together, the security breach would be cavernous.

Two key developments lie behind the arrests. The foreign intelligence surveillance court permits many more wiretaps, totalling 635 this year, already more than double the 1980 rate. Even more important, in security-sensitive cases a new law allows prosecutors to put their case behind closed doors.

Thomas Cavanagh was jailed for life in May in Los Angeles after confessing that he tried to sell secret plans for the Stealth bomber to FBI agents posing as Soviet spies.

Samuel Morison faces trial for allegedly passing classified documents to his Soviet lover in a deal which supposedly included \$65,000 (£45,000) in cash and gold. The lover and her husband pleaded guilty to spying and are serving jail sentences.

Sharon Scranage, a CIA clerk, was charged in July with leaking secrets to Ghana. She was arrested with Michael Sousoudis, a relative of Ghana's leader, who was released to Ghanaian authorities on Monday in a spy-swap deal.

Edward Howard, a former CIA employee, was charged in September with selling secrets to the KGB. He has fled abroad.

John Anthony Walker, his son Michael Walker and brother Arthur James Walker, together with Jerry Whitworth, were accused of conducting a family spy ring. The Walkers have been convicted. Whitworth awaits trial.

Jonathan Pollard, employed by the Naval Investigative Service and his wife, Ann Henderson-Pollard, await trial on charges of providing secret documents to a foreign government, believed to be Israel.

Larry Wu-Tai Chin, a retired CIA analyst, was arrested last week for allegedly passing classified national security documents to China.

Arrests mark the year of the spy

Allies who eavesdrop

By Craig Seaton

The special relationship between Britain and the United States in intelligence is at its closest in the secret work of worldwide eavesdroppers and code-breakers of the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), with its central organization in Cheltenham, and the National Security Agency (NSA) in Washington.

Fear of grave damage to British operations

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Ronald Pelton, who is accused of selling "extremely sensitive" information to the Soviet Union, may have inflicted grave damage on Britain's international eavesdropping and code-breaking operations.

He worked as a communications specialist for the National Security Agency (NSA), America's biggest and most secret spy organization. Despite official denials, the NSA has intimate ties with Britain's Cheltenham-based Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ).

The NSA derives secure communications within the Government and protects information in computers. It has an annual budget several million dollars larger than the Central Intelligence Agency. Besides breaking codes, it also makes them for use both by the US and its allies.

With satellites and masses of high-technology equipment it has taken away much of the tedious fact-gathering role of the human secret agent. It targets telephone and telex messages, communications at sea, military radio conversations, satellite signals - anything that might provide valuable snippets of information.

for 14 years, and had given them high-grade secrets. Prime was jailed for 38 years in 1982 by Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, who said the spy had done "incalculable harm to the interests and security of this country and our friends."

"Our friends" were, in particular, the chiefs of the NSA, horrified that intelligence material they had passed to the Russians. A team was sent to Britain to join British security officials in an extensive debriefing of GCHQ's first known "mole".

The arrest of Ronald Pelton, the former NSA communications specialist in Washington, suggests that America's most secret organization may now have had its own "Prime", and that American assumptions that "the Brits" could no longer be trusted after a series of spy scandals were too complacent.

James Bamford, a US intelligence specialist, in 1983 in the British foreword to his book *The Puzzle Palace*, on the work of the GCHQ and NSA, said that "as weak as security was at GCHQ, it was a fortress compared to NSA. The NSA was simply better at hiding how much and how badly it had been penetrated."

The specialty of GCHQ and NSA is SIGINT - Signals Intelligence. Officially, the British organization's role is "the reception and analysis of foreign communications and other electronic transmissions for intelligence purposes."

GCHQ is believed to employ about 7,000 people, more than half of them on two sites, Benhill and Oakley in the pleasant Gloucestershire town of Cheltenham, where intercepted signals are received from its numerous outstations in Britain and across the world and analysed.

GCHQ was born of the wartime code and cipher school based at Bletchley Park, and its close relationship with the American intelligence gathering community was formalized by a secret pact, known as UKUSA, signed in 1947. The relationship has since developed and co-operation has increased.

Intelligence experts say that the two allies "divided" the world into listening areas. GCHQ, for example, has listening posts in Cyprus to eavesdrop on vital signals traffic in the Middle East, at the Little Sai Wan base on Hong Kong, and on Ascension Island.

During the Falklands war, Britain was reported to have been helped by US eavesdroppers who gave vital information about Argentinian naval movements.

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Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Cardinal Glemp of Poland arriving at the Vatican synod yesterday.

Rome urged to delegate more power

From Peter Nichols Rome

A call from the Roman Catholic bishops in the United States for greater delegation of authority by Rome marked the third plenary assembly yesterday of the Vatican's international synod of bishops.

Mr James Malool, Bishop of Youngstown, and chairman of the North American National Episcopal Conference urged the synod to consider the idea that national conferences be allowed more powers.

The special synod was called to review the effects of the Second Vatican Council on the life of the Roman Catholic Church in the past 20 years.

Mr Malone told the 161 members of the Synod that the teaching of the Second Vatican Council on collegiality and the impetus which this teaching gave to episcopal conferences should be reinforced.

He was referring to the council's teaching that the bishops, as well as the Pope, had their responsibilities as a college in the government of the Church.

This responsibility, according to the American view, could in part be expressed through national episcopal conferences.

UN debate Argentina warned on Falklands sovereignty

From Zoriana Psaryiwsky, New York

In the opening address of the annual Falklands debate at the United Nations, Señor Dante Caputo, the Argentine Foreign Minister, dashed hopes that his country's decision to support a draft resolution which did not refer to sovereignty meant that Argentina was willing to enter into negotiations with Britain ignoring the issue.

He said that, despite Argentine good will, dialogue between London and Buenos Aires had been forestalled by British intransigence.

The draft resolution, which urges Britain and Argentina to discuss all aspects of the future of the Falklands, prompted

speculation that Buenos Aires was willing to shelve the sovereignty issue and begin discussions on normalizing relations. Señor Caputo's statement put paid to any such hopes.

He also gave warning that failure to solve the Falklands dispute could have untold consequences for the entire region. Argentina was watching British militarization of the area with apprehension.

Señor Caputo also made scornful reference to the proposed British amendment to the draft resolution dealing with the principle of self-determination. Leading article, page 15

TV in cells for French prisoners

Paris - prisoners in France will be able to have television in their cells from December 15. The scheme is one of several measures taken in the past five years by the French Justice Minister, M. Robert Badinter (Diana Geddes writes).

Predictably, there has been an outcry from certain right-wing groups complaining about criminals getting luxuries at the expense of honest taxpayers. But in fact the measure will not cost the taxpayer a penny, for the television will only be available to those prisoners who are themselves willing and able to pay the cost of the rental.

Mr Badinter believes that having television in the cells will help prevent a rupture with the outside world and make it easier for prisoners to adapt when they return to normal life.

UN debate

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Culture forum confident on détente

Budapest (Reuters) - An international culture meeting closed yesterday without agreement because of East-West differences. But delegates said the Budapest Cultural Forum, involving the United States, Canada, the Soviet Union and all European states except Albania, represented an important step forward in the Helsinki détente process.

It was valuable for the discussion and direct contacts it allowed. Particularly among the "cultural personalities" in the delegations along with diplomats and officials.

The forum was set up by the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) which 10 years ago in Helsinki inaugurated East-West détente.

It was to report on cultural creation, dissemination and co-operation to the CSCE review conference in Vienna next November. Under CSCE consensus rules, a final document had to be agreed by all 35 participants.

Negotiations, mediated by neutral states led by Austria, went on through the weekend, past Monday's scheduled time for the closing of the conference and into the early hours of yesterday. But they failed to resolve East-West ideological differences, preventing agreement on a final report.

However, the US delegate, Mr Walter Stössel, told the closing session: "In spite of the fact that we have Budapest without a final document, the forum, to its credit, has made an important contribution. That it has taken part at all is itself a significant development."

The Soviet delegate, Mr Yuri Kirichenko, said: "There is every ground to consider the forum has gone on successfully."

A last-minute proposal by Hungary that the participating states issue a short uncontroversial statement was agreed by all delegations except that of its fellow Warsaw Pact member, Romania, which vetoed it.

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Supreme Soviet focuses on crisis industries in 1986 budget debate

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

A new era was ushered in yesterday in the Great Kremlin Palace, when the Supreme Soviet met to endorse the state budget for 1986, the first year of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's new five-year plan, and the confirmation of Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov as Soviet Prime Minister.

Deputies from the Soviet Union's 15 constituent republics were told that the pay of workers in science-based industries is going to be increased, and that the aim over the next 12 months is to increase production of computers by 80 per cent, while cutting that of vodka by 20 per cent.

Prominence was given to the new anti-drinking drive with local officials being urged to encourage alternative means of leisure by building new stadiums and palaces of culture. It was also announced that resources are going to be switched from the drink industry to the manufacture of non-alcoholic beverages and products made from the fruit now being used as a base for wine.

The speech from the dais, under a giant marble statue of Lenin, made repeated emphasis on the need to modernize, to increase the production of quality consumer goods and to meet the centrally dictated economic targets - which will not be reached this year in the vital oil and construction industries.

The new emphasis on "social discipline" was underlined by the harsh criticism of those Soviet managers who had not met their targets. Observers were left with the impression that heads can soon be expected to roll in those sectors singled out for criticism.

The crisis in the Soviet oil production industry is regarded as particularly significant by western experts, many of whom believe that previous Soviet administrations foolishly over-exploited the resources in western Siberia. Yesterday, the Supreme Soviet was informed that oil output for 1985 would fall well below last year's total of 614 million tonnes.

Although the bi-annual session of Parliament is traditionally very much a rubber-stamp affair, there was a sense of occasion in the ornate viewing galleries as Mr Nikolai Talyzin, the man appointed last month as the new chief of Soviet planning, outlined targets for 1986. The supreme goal, he said, was "the speeding up of social and economic progress."

Mr Gorbachev, making his first public appearance since returning from Geneva, spoke strongly of the need for developing initiative and enhancing the "independence and responsibility of associations, plants and local bodies." As the session proceeded, he could be seen talking animatedly with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the veteran Soviet President and

Mr Ryzhkov, a leading member of the new generation of Soviet politicians.

During the often tedious recitation of raw economic statistics - by no means all regarded as wholly accurate by informed western diplomats - frequent mention was made of the Geneva summit and the extent to which the USSR was now aiming its economic strategy at the goal of peace.

To back this claim, the defence budget for next year was given by Mr Viktor Dementiev, the First Deputy Finance Minister as 19.06 billion roubles (\$23.19 billion, identical to that of 1985. His claim that this represents only 4.6 per cent of next year's total budget was treated with extreme scepticism by western diplomats, who believe that the true proportion is much higher.

Other key targets announced yesterday included a planned growth in national income (the broad equivalent of gross national product) in 1986 of 3.8 per cent, as compared with 3.5 per cent this year.

Apart from oil, the other main problem area of the Soviet economy is regarded as agriculture. Mr Talyzin said that output was due to increase by 4.4 per cent next year, but gave no figures for the 1985 grain harvest or next year's target. In recent years, production has fallen well below target.



Hundreds of white Zimbabweans queuing in Harare to renounce their dual citizenship before the December 1 deadline, when holders of foreign passports automatically lose their Zimbabwean citizenship.

Mission couple killed by guerrillas

From Jan Raath Harare

The headmaster of a Methodist mission school and his British-born wife were murdered and a young Irish volunteer teacher was critically injured on Monday by armed men believed to be guerrillas.

Police confirmed the incident, but gave no details. However, a Methodist Church spokesman in Harare said Mr Luke Khumalo, aged 58, and his wife, Jean, aged 54, were shot dead at Tegwani mission 60 miles west of Bulawayo in the Nata communal land in Matabeleland.

Mr Joss Douthwaite, aged 18, a volunteer teacher from Westport, County Mayo, received chest and leg wounds in the incident and was recovering in the intensive care unit of the Bulawayo central hospital after emergency surgery.

Police would only describe the killers as "armed men", but there appears little doubt they were guerrillas. Considerable numbers of security forces have been deployed to Nata in the past to trap guerrillas using the area as an entry point from Botswana.

The British High Commission has been in contact with the remaining 15 Britons at the school and advised them to evacuate it to Bulawayo. But late yesterday a spokesman for the church said the school was still functioning "normally".

The 15 expatriates were said to have been "pretty shaken". According to a report from the Plumtree police station, eight miles from Tegwani, said that a group of armed men arrived at the school at 9.30pm. The Khumalos were believed to have been in their house and Mr Douthwaite was said to have been on hostel duty.

Mrs Khumalo, born Jean Gosling, came from Hull and had worked as a missionary teacher in Nigeria before joining the staff of Tegwani in 1969. Three years later she married Mr Khumalo. Their marriage was one of the first interracial marriages in white-ruled Rhodesia.

Tegwani, one of the oldest missions in the country which began in the late 1890s, has seen trouble before. Late in 1977, guerrillas of Zippa, the military wing of Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zanu Party during Zimbabwe's liberation war, arrived at the school and abducted 300 pupils.

Sikh denies he shot Mrs Gandhi

From Michael Hamlyn Delhi

The surviving alleged assassin of Mrs Indira Gandhi insisted yesterday that he had not shot her. Sarwant Singh told the judge at his trial in Tihar prison here that he had been falsely accused.

Judge Mahesh Chandra put about 100 points of prosecution evidence to him, all of which were denied.

"The sten gun I was carrying had fallen to the ground", Sarwant Singh said. "When I was hit by a bullet I was grievously injured... I had not shot at Mrs Gandhi."

The accused, a former member of Mrs Gandhi's security police, said: "I am a Sikh, and any Sikh could be implicated in the assassination after the Blue Star operation", in which the Indian Army took control of the Golden Temple of Amritsar, the Sikh's holiest shrine.

Wearing a blue turban - the colour of the Sikh political party - he spoke from behind a protective screen of bullet-proof glass.

He denied that he had asked for his duty to be changed to be near the gate passed by Mrs Gandhi. He also denied that he was on duty at the gate in question, and that Inspector Beant Singh, who died the same day, had shot Mrs Gandhi.

EEC foreign ministers leave summit to deal with reform

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Ignoring Machiavelli's dictum that princes should not discuss issues their envoys have failed to resolve beforehand, European foreign ministers yesterday made barely perceptible progress and decided to leave it to next week's summit in Luxembourg to tackle the contentious question of EEC reform.

Short of a miraculous narrowing of differences next weekend, on the eve of the summit, nothing can avert a face-to-face showdown next Monday between European heads of government over the creation of a "Europe without frontiers", the abolition of trade barriers and the division of power between the European Parliament in Strasbourg and

the Council of Ministers and Commission in Brussels. The foreign ministers were meeting for two days within the framework of the inter-governmental conference set up after the last summit in Milan in June. Speaking after the session, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, said it was proving "as difficult as expected" to agree on amendments to the Treaty of Rome, the EEC founding document.

But he agreed that the focus of attempts to reform the structure of the EEC had narrowed. Officials said it was possible that the summit could be presented with a scaled down range of measures rather than a more ambitious comprehensive package.

The foreign ministers will hold a final two-day session in Luxembourg next Saturday and Sunday. The inter-governmental conference is supposed to reshape Europe for the 1990s, a process given impetus by the accession of Spain and Portugal on January and a growing pressure for a common European foreign policy.

Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Foreign Minister, yesterday pressed for greater powers for the European Parliament. But other states, led by Britain, stuck to the agreed Council of Ministers formula put forward by Luxembourg offering the Parliament a "second reading" of legislation but retaining the Council's right to have the last word.

Rawlings relative in Ghana spy swap

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The United States has agreed to a swap involving Mr Michael Soussoudis, a relative of Ghana's leader, Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, for a group of about eight Ghanaians, who allegedly worked with American intelligence, the Justice Department said. It was an unusual exchange of alleged spies between the US and a Third World country.

Mr Soussoudis, aged 39, had been charged last July with spying with his girlfriend, Miss Sharon Scrangan, a Central Intelligence Agency employee, who had worked in Ghana.

He was released on Monday morning to the custody of the Ghanaian Embassy here. The officials said that Mr Soussoudis had agreed to plead no contest to the charges and had

received a suspended sentence on condition that he left the US immediately.

The department said that in return for Mr Soussoudis several Ghanaian citizens who had been in custody and had special interest to the US were being released and their families were being allowed to go to other African countries from Ghana.

Israel chooses Arab mayor for Nablus

Jerusalem - Israel yesterday appointed an Arab mayor to take over in the West Bank city of Nablus after three years of rule by a military administrator (Jan Murray writes).

The designate mayor is Mr Zahir al-Masri, brother of the Jordanian Foreign Minister and leader of the powerful Nablus Chamber of Commerce.

Mr al-Masri has been an outspoken critic of Israel's occupation of the West Bank in the past but he is not linked with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, has been promising for weeks to bring back Arab mayors to the five West Bank cities from which they were expelled.

King Hassan rules out meeting with Peres

Rabat (AFP). King Hassan of Morocco yesterday ruled out "all direct contact" with the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, in a search for a Middle East peace settlement.

Ending speculation on a possible meeting, the King said on the eve of a trip to France: "If Mr Peres has something concrete to put forward, he can put his proposals in an envelope and address them to the Secretary-General of the UN."

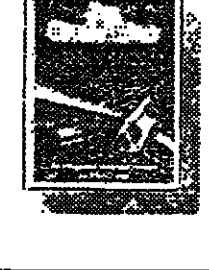
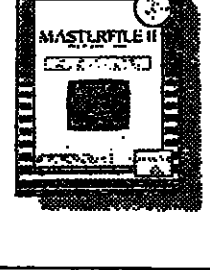
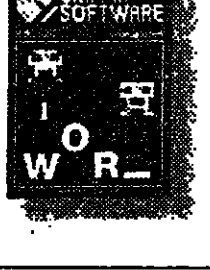
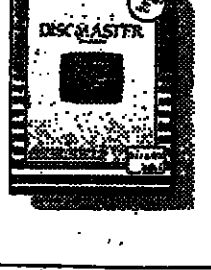
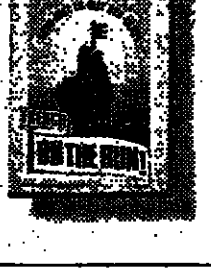
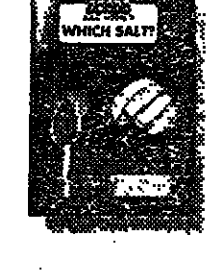
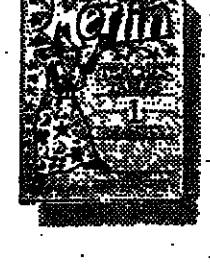
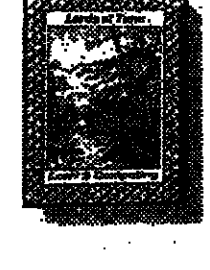
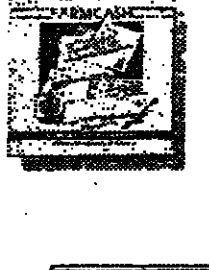
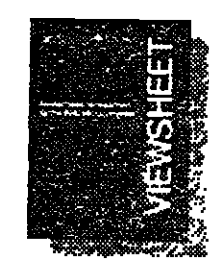
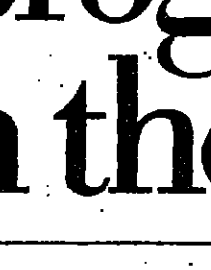
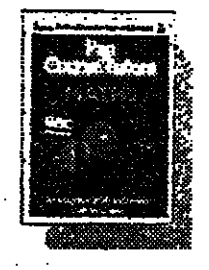
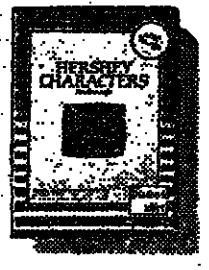
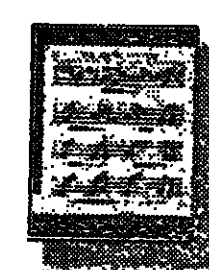
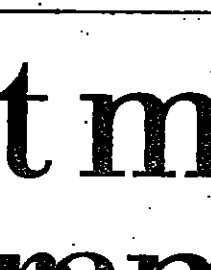
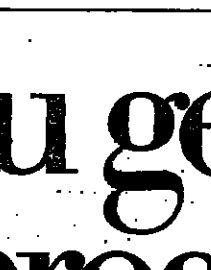
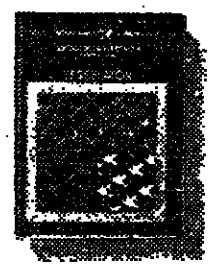
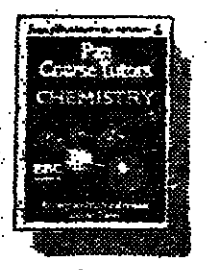
Earlier yesterday Mr Peres said he was prepared to hold talks with King Hassan, current head of the Arab League, to outline Israel's position on a Middle East settlement.

An Israeli Labour MP, Mr Rafael Eini, yesterday said he had recently gone to Morocco with a message from the Prime Minister to King Hassan.

Israeli officials said a meeting between the two could "stimulate the peace process in the Middle East." Mr Peres met King Hassan in 1981 in opposition.

On Monday King Hassan was reported as saying: "Shimon Peres has let me know that he would like to come to see me. So I have told him... if you have something serious, come to see me."

But yesterday he said his offer was a general one and meant the Arab side was open to dialogue with the Israeli Government on condition that Israel recognized the Palestinians' right to self-determination and liberated the occupied territories.



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THE ARTS

Interview: Elem Klimov (right), whose film *Agony* opens in London tomorrow

Destroying the historical stereotypes

Elem Klimov, one of the outstanding personalities in contemporary Soviet cinema, has just been in London to introduce his new legendary film *Agony* (Agony), which opens tomorrow, as well as his latest work, *Go and See*, which won the Grand Prix of the Moscow Film Festival and features in the current London Festival. This was his first visit to London: and his big moment was seeing the Queen - "Twice - going to and from the opening of Parliament. My only regret was that my 12-year-old son wasn't with me. He reads all the time about kings and queens and knights, and here was a queen in the flesh. Crown and all, even if it was a rather small one. The weekday crown, I suppose."

Klimov himself learnt a lot about royalty in researching *Agony*, which deals with the last days of the Romanov dynasty. The film arrives in London after an odyssey of many years - the kind of odyssey, in fact, that always serves to give films legendary status, especially when they come from the socialist East. Work on the script began in 1973, and the film was completed in the early summer of 1975. A handful of people saw it at private screenings. After this it disappeared completely until 1981, when it was shown at the close of the Moscow Festival. Only last year did it finally open publicly in the Soviet Union, with a limited distribution but sell-out audiences wherever it was shown.

Agony was never banned", Klimov says. "Only to this day he is himself not clear why the film proved so problematic for the Soviet authorities. "When it was first screened, a very intelligent colleague of mine came out of the show and said 'My friend, you are finished; you have destroyed the historical stereo-

types... His Majesty the Stereotype'. That certainly was part of the trouble. People were used to a set view of historical figures in Soviet films. Since the film came out, there has been a great deal of discussion. I am criticized for not presenting a truly comprehensive view of the history of the period. That was not my intention. I use these historical events and people for their symbolic and metaphorical significance."

The central figure of the film is the "starets" Rasputin, played by Alexei Petrenko with a larger-than-life gusto that makes even John Barrymore's interpretation of the role seem pallid. Klimov is fascinated by the contradictions of the character - wild and wily, gross and ignorant, yet able to wield enormous influence upon the Russian court. Klimov sees Rasputin as an unwitting tool of the Tsar's whimsies, and his personal power as a symptom of the total chaos and decay of the Russian Empire in 1916.

"There is a lot about him that simply cannot be explained. His death for hours he survived massive doses of poison and bullet-wounds. His apparently dead body was dumped in the Neva, floated under the ice and reappeared in an air-hole an hour later; and it was reported that his heart was still beating.

This was the first time that Rasputin had figured in a Soviet film. The Tsar had sometimes made brief walk-ons, always represented as a stock tyrant; and this was the most controversial innovation of *Agony*. Klimov's Nikolai is a simple, weak, confused man, more concerned with his family than with the affairs of his vast disintegrating empire. The more brutal depiction of the Tsarina as a domineering German wife tends only to increase sympathy for silly Nicky.

Ideological implications were no doubt somewhat eclipsed at the time of filming by the considerable technical problems which beset the film. "My photographer, Kalashnikov, was determined to shoot on Eastman film, but in 1974 it was very difficult for our studios to buy it. We were given the absolute minimum allowance of stock for a one-part film, which is what we were officially making. But unofficially we wanted to make the film as a two-part film, running twice as long. In consequence we had so little film that we had to get every shot in a single take.

"This problem was compounded since Petrenko, in the key role, had never acted in cinema before and began with no idea of the work. I had to trick him. I would do two or three takes, without telling him there was no film in the camera; and then I would abuse him dreadfully. 'Three takes, and all that film you've ruined...' The poor man would be made to feel so guilty that he would do the next one absolutely perfectly, and of course this time there was film in the camera.

"Halfway through the production he had a heart attack, and we had to have a six-week break. When he came back to work, I decided the first scene he should try was one where he hurls himself into a freezing puddle and energetically rolls himself about in the mud. I figured that, if he survived that, he would survive anything. He was very nervous about it, but there were a lot of actresses about, so pride drove him on. The trouble was he improvised, and kept going out of shot. He finished the take, but he was terrified. We only had one costume, and of course it was now soaked. So we got him out of his clothes, dried them, and sent him back to do it over again. This time he did not improvise! He was

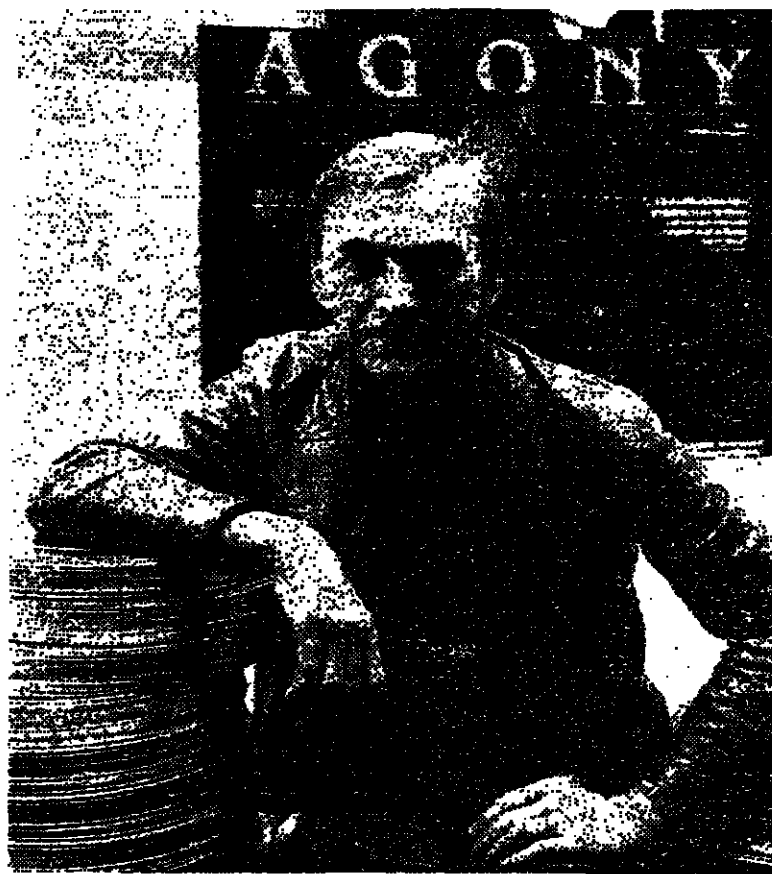
furiously, but I think it really did him good.

"I can be even tougher on actors. There was a special group on my last film, *Go and See*, to defend the young lad who plays the main role from me. *Go and See* is an astonishing, horrific epic about the Nazi massacre of a Belorussian village in 1943. Alexei Kravchenko, the boy who plays the part of a young partisan, is required to age before our eyes, until in the last agonizing shots he seems like a man of 60. 'We wanted him to be 300, but we didn't quite manage it.'

If life for his actors is hard, Klimov himself has not had an entirely easy career. He came comparatively late to films. Born in 1933, he graduated as an engineer-designer at the Moscow Aviation Institute. As a student in the early fifties he worked with a satirical theatre group, and after a year or so in engineering, felt the call of the cinema and enrolled in the State Cinema Institute.

Agony was not the first of his films to run up against the authorities. His graduation film, *Welcome, or No Entry for Unauthorized Persons* (1964), a satirical comedy about a somewhat subversive child in a severely organized pioneer camp, was much criticized, and his next film, *Adventures of a Dentist* (1965), which described the frustrations of a talented man, has never seen the light of day. His most popular and successful work, *Sport, Sport* (1970), mixed documentary and fiction.

In private life he suffered a disastrous blow during the years when *Agony* was still in limbo. As a student he had married Larissa Shepiko, an immensely gifted filmmaker, whose own films rarely attracted total official approval.



Shepiko, a woman of phenomenal personal attraction, was killed in a car accident in 1979 while working on *Agony*. "When we were married, Larissa and I swore we would never work together. Of course we helped each other all the time with our films, but privately - we reckoned each of us was the other's 'artistic adviser'. But, a week after the funeral, I was behind the camera, finishing the film. That was the end of our collaboration, though she had completed very little at the time she died."

Ironically, *Farewell to Matyora*, which deals with the effects upon a community when their village is destroyed to make way for a film, was officially regarded as "problematic". Klimov, however, appears resigned rather than surprised or resentful at the ups and downs of his artistic life. "Of course there are filmmakers - in every country - who are able to make films without encountering problems. The trouble is that such people's films are not usually very interesting."

David Robinson

Theatre

Hamlet
Lyceum, Edinburgh

The untimeliness of death and the importance of memory to us every November hang heavy over this production, even before the play begins. Gregory Smith's beautiful, elegiac set flanks the stage with remembrance plaques covered with names, a constant reminder of mortality, oppressing Hamlet, bearing silent reproach to the guilty King and Queen and bringing out anew the play's universality.

It is the feeling of inescapability, balanced against human manipulation, that comes across most strongly in Hugh Hodgart's production. Gertrude (Patricia Ross) and Claudius (Charles Kearney) inhabit an area that moves from Twenties to Seventies, favouring easy glitter, hi-tech and upward mobility, and their behaviour is coloured by a slightly manic escapism, representative of a society with an affected and irresponsible corporate loss of memory. The atmosphere feels volatile - back-scratching and back-stabbing the twin routes to success. Meanwhile it is the likes of Polonius who are really running the show, played by Tom Watson as a gruff Yorkshireman who has made his way through a combination of plain speaking and guile to the upper ranks of the Civil Service. Sometimes this works beautifully, and sometimes not at all, and the feeling keeps returning that this is a production full of bright ideas that have not always been worked out to fit throughout the play.

Against this society Hamlet's lucid madness becomes utterly logical and identifiable. Kevin McMonagle's Hamlet is possessed by a frenetic gaiety from the outset - intercalary, roguish and in a deadpan almost shell-shocked way, a clear-cut and arresting performance, inspiring a great deal of sympathy. He seems slightly ill at ease, however, in his soliloquies. Spelling them out with the pain of an intelligent man forcing himself to think things through, he is sometimes working against the grain of the production.

Hamlet's meeting with the Queen suffers badly from overstated emotion, and both overacted and overdone (Phil Smeaton) are tarred with the same declamatory brush. The grave-digger and players scenes, however, are vivid with fresh invention, and this, and the production's sense of direction, despite red herrings, keep it buoyant and clear, the atmosphere consistently and beautifully evoked.

Sarah Hemming

Television

Land of plenty?

There is probably no love lost between farmers and the rest of the nation, at least not in recent years when they have been seen as greedy profiteers always lamenting their ill-fortune while clawing up subsidies and denouncing what we now choose to call the "environment".

Last night's *Cold Comfort Farm* (Central) evoked a different picture, however, since it concerned itself with what Max Hastings (who himself looks like a farmer who has briefly attended a charm school) described as "the crisis in English farming": specifically, the plight of small farmers who are being squeezed out by their larger colleagues who have grown rich on the Common Agricultural Policy. Within the next decade, it seems, thousands of them will be "driven off the land".

The response of the Government is to rely upon "market forces" - in other words, let those who cannot compete simply rot in peace. It is a little late in the day, however, to apply this Boudier doctrine since the CAP itself represents a massive intervention which has

nothing whatever to do with "market forces" - witness the various dairy mountains which now deface the European landscape. In fact these mountains are themselves the cause of the trouble.

Quite what can be done is another matter, and some of last night's resonant clichés, such as "the post-industrial age of farming" - really do not help. What the programme did manage to convey, however, was the devastating effect which the now evaporating "farming boom" has inflicted upon the countryside.

If there are to be new kinds of subsidy, which was as near a solution as the documentary could muster, surely it is right for some money to be invested in those farmers who are actively trying to repair the land which they utilize? And, although television journalism finds a new "crisis" each week, on this occasion the fears of a well-researched and well-documented programme seemed to be justified.

Peter Ackroyd

Opera

La fanciulla del West
Covent Garden

With Piero Faggioni back to supervise his 1977 production and, presumably, a few hours' more stage rehearsal available while orchestra and management were squabbling over pay, *La fanciulla del West* comes up in sharp theatrical focus in its present Covent Garden revival. Puccini's miners, served as ever by Francis Egerton's Nick, are clearly etched at the Polka Saloon. There is an impressive new Ashby in Carlo del Bosco, although he seems to have mislaid his rascally coat for Act 1.

The snowstorm blasts through Minnie's log cabin and, in the final act, Minnie and her Johnson stride off into a brave new dawn, while a slow revolve of the massive pit-wheel indicates that business is going back to normal at the mining community.

The penalty paid for Ken Adam's filmic sets is two very long intervals, but it is just about worth it. Faggioni plays brinkmanship with kitsch, as Puccini himself did on occasion, and he gets away with it. More than that, his production has unity and an acute sense of the mixture of romance and verisimilitude forming the core of *Fanciulla*.

Giuseppe Sinopoli was to have conducted this revival and he has already shown West Berlin just how well he understands the work. But his replacement, John Mauceri, is also an expert Puccinian. Mauceri used slow tempi in the first act, perhaps a mark of awareness that the arias and brief encounters at the beginning of the opera flash by before a less-than-alert audience can absorb them. He also tries to lighten the thick orchestral texture to help his singers. But part of the plan must also be to give maximum effect to the drama of the central act with its lynch party, shooting and cheating to save a lover's life. Tosca would just have picked up a knife.

All three principals were singing their roles for the first time in London and for Mara Zampieri it was her debut as Minnie. She is a soprano in the



Mara Zampieri: fearless attack and accomplished acting in her debut as Minnie

Dimitrova mould - fearless attack, volume turned up high, a tendency to hardness of tone - but she is a much more accomplished actress. Under Mauceri's sympathetic baton Mme Zampieri's Minnie grew from her first tentative dance steps in Act 1 into her Rin-Tin-Tin rescue act in the final scene. She will be singing many more Minnies.

Nicola Martinucci was less well cast as Johnson. His tiny frame scarcely suggests the desperado of California's Cloudy Mountains and the voice did not have the sheen it possessed when I heard his Calaf at La Scala. A robust Minnie needs an equally robust Johnson by her side. Alain Fondary's Italian was none too intelligible and he turned Jack Rance into a Kojak figure rather than a descendant of Baron Scarpia, but the house much liked him. *Fanciulla* is at heart an ensemble piece, and that is where this revival really scores.

John Higgins

LFB2

Sadler's Wells

Somebody should urgently find a more attractive and self-explanatory title for this welcome new venture by London Festival Ballet, to ensure that it reaches the big audiences it deserves. LFB2 is emphatically not a second company or junior group, but a selection of principals, soloists and potential soloists from the full company, giving a programme that can be presented on stages too small to take the bigger productions.

That does not mean putting up with second best. Monday night's programme, opening a showcase week at Sadler's Wells (sponsored by Den Danske Bank), offered a mixed bill of two classic showpieces, a strong modern drama and the premiere of a light-hearted work using dance to show mood and character.

The new work is Nils Christie's *Necessity So*, which uses Mats Skoog as a catalyst among its three couples. I think the Gertrude music could have supported more variety of mood in the duets, solos and trios: it could also have

Dance

benefited from sweeter-toned playing by Donald Weekes as its solo violinist in Jascha Heifetz's ingenious if self-willed arrangement for violin and piano.

All the same, *Necessity So* is fluently arranged and well danced, giving the evening a pleasant start. And it is coupled, before the intermission, with a virtuoso number, Balanchine's *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux*, staged with a good sense of pace and excitement by Patricia Neary. Katherine Healy and Patrick Armand were the first of several casts in this, she danced exuberantly though unevenly, with some scintillating moments, and he dazzled more consistently by his bouncy vigour, crispness and punchy yet fluent presentation.

Christopher Bruce's *Land* provided the strong meat of the programme with its harsh score by Arne Nordheim, its atmospheric, mysteriously changing backdrop by Walter Nobbe and committed performances by all the cast bringing out the dramatic implications of the dance, struggle and, above all, courage.

Peter Schaufuss's production of dances from *Napoli*, the best work of the Danish old master

Bourdonville, provides an exhilarating finale with its charmingly formal opening dance for six, its copious use of solos and its joyful tarantella finale. Spicing it with the *pas de deux* and yet more solos from another Bourdonville work, *Flower Festival at Genzano*, offers an even more generous mixture and the chance for more dancers to show their paces.

I am not convinced that it is a good idea to alternate dances from the two sources; it blurs the stylistic edges musically and choreographically.

Schaufuss himself danced with vigour, precision and a delight in what he was doing that communicated itself to the audience. Darryl Norton's wide, sweeping leaps and buoyant energy were also a special pleasure. With Skoog and Armand as the other male soloists, the women were on the whole outshone.

The musical side of the performance, with a small orchestra under Graham Bond's direction, needs strengthening generally, but here are the beginnings of a worthwhile enterprise. Catch it now.

John Percival

Concert

RLPO/Clebury
Barbican

There are now so few opportunities for young (or even not so young) composers to work with large orchestras that a concert like Monday night's shines out as a good deed in a naughty world. Thanks to the enlightened generosity of the RLVW Trust and the spirited audience of the Society for the Promotion of New Music, we were able to hear scores by two composers born in the 1950s, Michael Rosenzweig and Steve Martland.

Gratitude for that, though, cannot be entirely unmixed. Single good deeds are all very well, but what is wanted is a policy of musical goodness: more interest from orchestras in presenting new music, and programmes of apprenticeship that might help composers to learn about the orchestra from inside. After all, one only has to look at the orchestral works of Pierre Boulez to see how long it

took even that highly gifted musician to start making the orchestra work.

Small wonder that the relatively inexperienced Rosenzweig had trouble in his quarter-hour *Symphony in One Movement*, though he was unlucky to be the victim of an own goal. The programme note, presumably written with his blessing, promised a combination of cor anglais, crotales and string harmonics "ingeniously reproducing the timbre of an electric guitar", but there was no such effect.

Even without this embarrassing evidence, however, one would have guessed that wishful thinking was going into the orchestral balance. The sound was all levitating and seersy; thick, churning lines and tuned percussion glitter. Moreover, the two basic speeds, ambling and galumphing, were not well geared to any harmonic force, so that the final revelation of an underlying theme, which ought to have been climactic, seemed rather arbitrary.

Rock

Everly Brothers
Hammersmith Odeon

"It's just like Saturday morning at the pictures", observed one chap queuing in the aisles for an ice-cream during the interval, and his reference to the childhood activities of a generation now on the far side of 35 seemed apposite. For, despite their recent recording contract and new albums, the appeal of an Everly Brothers concert in 1985 is entirely nostalgic, and not without its reminders of the harsher effects of time.

While it is no surprise that the least cool sexual *dieu* that characterized their early look has gone, it was chastening to observe the tubby Don, with his carelessly slung guitar, hair in a mess, looking like Nigel Lawson after an all-night sitting. Phil, although in better shape generally, was suffering from flu and the exertions required by some of the faster numbers such as "Bird Dog" left him a bit out of puff.

But their mastery of the harmony duo format, a practi-

cally extinct genre until their reunion in 1983, remains unsurpassed and, with a competent, friendly backing band incorporating the dextrous Albert Lee on guitar and Ian MacLagen, once of the Faces, on keyboards, they played a meticulously paced set that fairly sparkled with gems from the pre-rock era of rock 'n' roll, although up-tempo numbers like "Claudette" and "Lucille" got the audience raving in their seats, the clean wistful harmonies worked as ever to best effect on the slow ballads. "All I Have to do is Dream", "Let it be Me" and the wonderful "Crying in the Rain" were the only offerings from the new album *Born Yesterday*, and won prolonged applause, suggesting that they could afford to be more adventurous in their choice of material.

While it was refreshing to hear the authors of the songs and the musicians assiduously credited throughout, Don's gentle humour at his brother's expense became a little tedious on the third and fourth occasion.

David Sinclair

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Charge for Credit	723.98	1625.42	831.78	1867.50	952.45	2137.93	817.75	1834.76
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Justice dispensed by JPs varies throughout the country. Should the system change?

Where justice is a local issue



A degree of mystery and controversy surrounds not only the selection and appointment of magistrates but also the different criteria on which they base their sentences.

Peter Evans concludes his two-part series with a look at the backbone of British justice: the Bench

Wide differences between terms of imprisonment imposed by neighbouring magistrates' courts have been disclosed by a Government computer print-out.

The breakdown, which was supplied to Mr Gerry Bermingham, the Labour MP, by the Home Office in response to a Parliamentary question, will support the argument that a defendant's fate depends much on luck - which Bench he happens to appear before. "The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, is very keen on the courts having consistent sentencing: it shouldn't depend on the lottery of where you are tried," Mr Bermingham said. He is now tabling more than 20 questions asking the Government to explain the different rates.

Magistrates argue that sentences are influenced by local conditions and whether crime of a particular type is rife and needs salutary punishment. Benches have to deal with the particular cases and conditions that confront them, they say.

Yet in Sussex a startling 30 per cent of males found guilty of indictable offences at Brighton in 1983 were given prison sentences compared with only 14 per cent in Lewes, according to the National Association of Probation Officers, which has been analysing the print-out. In Tyne and Wear, the figure for Sunderland was 24 per cent of males found guilty while Newcastle upon Tyne was content with 15 per cent.

Contrasting percentages, including suspended sentences, for other areas during the same year are: Cheshire: Chester 27, Crewe 19; Avon: Bath 19, Bristol 14, Weston-super-Mare 22; Lancashire: Chorley 23, Accrington 33, Ormskirk 17.

One reason why some county and rural areas may have disproportionately high figures of imprisonment is given by Mr Harry Fletcher, NAO's assistant secretary, who says: "Magistrates in the inner cities have a greater understanding of the complexity of crime and of the negative effects of prison". Hence, St Paul's, Bristol, despite being the scene of riots, hands out substantially fewer prison sentences than more peaceable Weston-super-Mare. Similarly, Liverpool, despite its heavy crime rate, gave custodial sentences in only 14 per cent of cases compared with 28 per cent in Manchester.

Another explanation is that Benches may inherit and pass on characteristic attitudes. Miss Elizabeth Burney, author of a book on the magistracy, says: "Magistrates grow more like each other as they go on. You may start off thinking you will change things, but the influence of senior magistrates is very great."

Mr John Morris QC, Labour MP for Aberavon and Shadow Attorney-General, accepts that there will always be discrepancies in sentencing. At the same time, he would like to see greater awareness among magistrates of sentences imposed in other courts perhaps by something like the sentencing conferences held for Circuit Judges and Recorders.

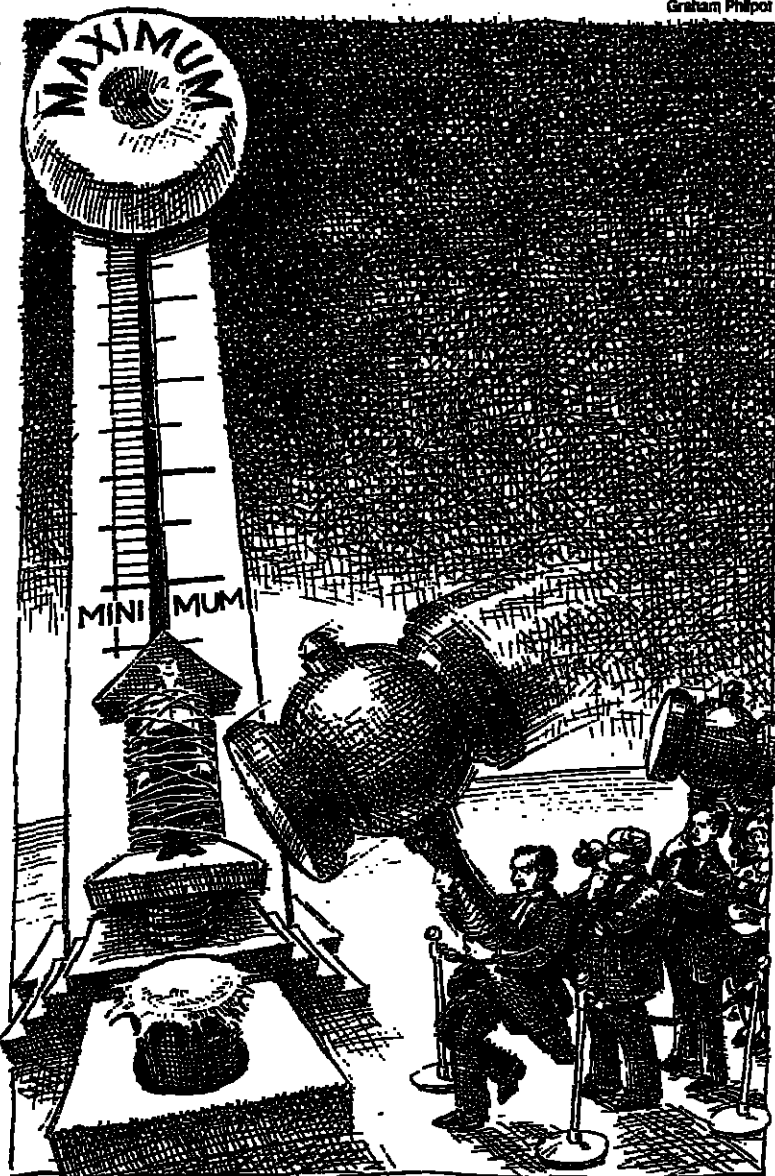
There are enormous differences in magistrates' courts

There are currently more than 27,000 magistrates and they decide 98 per cent of all criminal cases. To keep pace with court business, numbers on the Bench have risen steeply from 19,454 in 1975. No fewer than 54 per cent of defendants are accused of motoring offences.

Obligatory basic training was introduced for all justices appointed in England and Wales from 1966. They undergo refresher training in each three-year period after the first until they are 65. Now magistrates' training is to be boosted by the Judicial Studies Board, which has taken over responsibility from the old Advisory Committee on the Training of Magistrates.

Mr Rod Morgan, who sits on the Bath Bench, said the training of new magistrates was much improved, but could be still better. The basic training was still done by the local clerk. Since the clerk was the most important influence on the culture and practice of an individual Bench, Mr Morgan would like contributions to come from people who were not clerks, and believes there should be training by clerks from other parts of the country.

"There are enormous differences in the magistrates from one part of the country and another", he said. "There are magistrates who were striking miners. Too often those who



write about the bench come from the south-east."

He agreed that inconsistent sentencing was damaging in some areas: "On the other hand, I wouldn't like to see a system whereby local Benches were not free to make up their own minds. I wouldn't like to see the slavish adoption of some central recommendation by a body like the Magistrates' Association."

The key to the composition of the Bench lies with the powerful but shadowy local advisory committees. Though a couple of committees have come into the open, most prefer not to lay themselves open to pressure or the potential embarrassment of knowing candidates. One woman on an advisory committee for many years said he husband didn't know she belonged, but others interview candidates in their own homes.

Yet their is, paradoxically, a contrived anonymity. The committee members do not give their names to candidates and, if candidates recognize any of them, they are not supposed to tell anyone. Sec-

retaries names are known, however. More than 90 per cent of the secret network are magistrates. The rest are people thought to have special knowledge that they can bring to the local intelligence system: perhaps a solicitor not practising before magistrates, a personnel manager, or maybe a local doctor. In Shire counties, the Lord Lieutenant is invariably the committee's chairman.

Too much emphasis is laid on political considerations

Candidates for the magistracy can put themselves forward and are encouraged to do so, the Lord Chancellor's Department says. They can apply to the secretary of their advisory committee, whose name can be obtained from the Clerk to the Justices locally. The secretary and members of committees also ap-

proach local employers, organizations and individuals to invite them to recommend candidates.

Successful candidates are supposed to be not only good but also to look good enough to inspire confidence on and off the Bench. The successful names go forward to the Lord Chancellor.

The aim is broadly to reflect the local community - and there has been a sexual revolution. Women, who became eligible to serve only in 1919, now comprise 43 per cent of magistrates, compared with only 33 per cent in 1973.

"The effect has been to make the Bench more middle-class", Elizabeth Burney says. The sort of women who have time and money and get drawn into the networks are overwhelmingly middle-class.

Backing for the charge that Benches tend to be dominated by the middle-class comes from one survey on black magistrates by Warrington Community Law Centre and another by the Cobden Trust.

The Trust claims that the ideal of a lay magistracy, reflecting a cross-section of the community, has never been realized. The proportion of black JPs in many areas is said to fall far short of the percentage of black people in the community, but the failure rate of such candidates is less than that of others.

One magistrate on a provincial Bench said, however: "We reflect the local community pretty well. We have an electrician on the Bench and someone who works in a dry-cleaning place. We have farmers and two teachers. Our chairman is a shopkeeper. We are extremely ordinary, pretty average - and that is good."

On a large Midland Bench, though, with an establishment of nearly 400, there were just 39 manual workers while a north-east Bench of 191 magistrates included only 17 manual workers and eight doing secretarial work. Of the rest, teachers (19) and company directors (15) comprised the biggest single occupational groups.

Political beliefs matter. Would-be magistrates are asked how they vote to avoid having too many on the Bench from any one party. But Sir Thomas Skyrme, formerly Secretary of Commissions, responsible for magistrates in the UK, and one-time chairman of the Magistrates' Association of England and Wales, says: "Too much emphasis is laid on political considerations."

It is not possible to give a political breakdown of the magistracy with accuracy because information must be derived mainly from statements made by justices when appointed, but Sir Thomas quotes in his book *The Changing Image of the Magistracy* a 1983 breakdown of party allegiance: Conservatives 41 per cent; Labour 28; Liberals 11; SDP 1; Plaid Cymru 0.3; Independents and "not known" made up 18.7 per cent.

Magistrates are not appointed if they have done anything likely to

discredit the Bench. Mr Geoffrey Norman, the Magistrates' Association secretary, says that a magistrate who had a company which, after his appointment, went into liquidation in a way which called into question his financial probity, would be reported to the Lord Chancellor.

"I don't think a single drink-drive conviction would necessarily lead to resignation, but the person concerned would probably be asked not to sit for the period of disqualification", he said.

What happened to a magistrate who had difficulties with the Inland Revenue over tax would depend on the circumstances, and divorce would not normally bring about a magistrate's resignation.

In 1984, 13 magistrates, a fairly typical number, were removed by the Lord Chancellor, though the figure so far this year is fewer than five. The 1984 removals included one magistrate who refused to pay a fine imposed for obstruction; one who made a false claim for court expenses and was convicted; another for fraud not connected with the Bench; and another for "misconduct of a sexual nature".

We live in a world run by experts. The more lay people, the better

Sir Thomas Skyrme describes the case of a male transvestite who masqueraded in public in female clothing. He was required to resign because public confidence in the courts was likely to be weakened if it were known that justices behaved in that way although transvestism is not an offence and may be regarded as harmless.

However much critics of the system may say it tends towards conformity, awkward differences remain. As with sentencing, legal aid is granted or refused at widely differing rates. The Legal Action Group points out that in Newham, London, the Stratford court refused eight per cent of applications while West Ham refused 22 per cent.

Any idea of replacing amateurs with professional stipendiaries is out. They, too, are independent, and the cost would be too great. Elizabeth Burney says: "There is great strength in having lay magistrates. I wouldn't wish to hand it all over to lawyers. We live in a world run by experts. The more lay people become involved, the better. The good magistrates are the best."

TOMORROW

Times Profile:
Lord Lane,
Lord Chief Justice

Uncivil service

COMMENT

Phil Sidney

What links one of the world's greatest building societies, my garage, the Home Office's TV licence evasion unit, and an investment company? Simply that they are the most recent examples of a long line of organizations that seem unworried by their own incompetence.

In just a few days I have fallen prey to their bungling, and I assume that similar troubles have affected everybody trying to keep up with the administration involved in what used to be called a private life.

First, the building society. Part of my endowment has been insured to pay part of my loan, an everyday occurrence in the building society world. I wrote to ask what my monthly repayments would be now. Although heralded by form-filling, the endowment cheque seems to catch the building society by surprise and they write to ask what should be done with it.

I explain, but another letter tells me that although the part loan was repaid on the fourth of the month, I must now interest on it for the rest of the month.

At about the same time my car goes in for a service and MOT. It has to stay overnight for new radiator hoses. Next day I find the anti-freeze has been thrown away and the hoses do not fit.

Then the TV licence unit comes knocking. My home name was changed a couple of years ago and I dutifully wrote to the licence department to tell them. But these officials want to know why the licence for the old name has stopped, even though they know I have a licence for the new name? I show my licence and respectfully ask them to spell the road name correctly next year.

Some time later the telephone rings. It is an investment firm which recently sent me two identical letters. I tell the salesman I am not interested, and he bids a regretful goodbye. Two hours later another member of the firm rings, presumably in connection with the second letter. He refuses to believe that I have already turned down one caller. "What was his name?" he demands.

This sort of incident is commonplace in my experience. But if I throw the latest irritation into conversation it is always capped by one of the plumbest insurance company, the post office, department stores...

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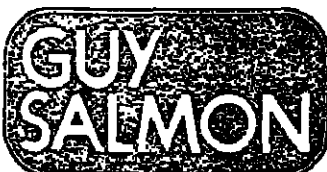
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Identity crisis in the high street

With another merger of chain store giants, Patience Wheatcroft looks at the changing face of shopping

Modern shopkeepers are finding that the way to win customers is not lower prices but bright lights and pretty pictures.

As retailers devote more of their resources to decorating their stores, they insist that they are improving the shopping environment. But is it really just a case of "It's not what you sell but the way that you sell it"?

Monday's merger between British Home Stores and Habitat Mothercare will no doubt lead to another high street face-lift. Earlier this month Marks & Spencer proudly unveiled its new-look store in high-spending suburban Bromley in south London. Although the goods were of the expected M&S quality, the emphasis of the expensive re-amp is as much on marketing as it is on merchandise.

Without adding an inch to the floor space of the store, M&S believes that it can improve sales by 40 per cent with its refit. Old-style counters have been replaced by elegant



Wooling the young: a Next fashion store

wooden display stands. New ceilings and lamps show customers and merchandise in a flattering light. And mannequins and blow-up photographs demonstrate how much better one garment can look if put with another.

That is the sort of facelift we can expect to see at BHS in the next year or so. Despite Sir Terence Conran's insistence that he plans no radical changes, he will be able to add his inimitable brand of flair to BHS's somewhat dowdy image. The tired-looking shade of blue that pervades BHS

branches will probably be replaced by something fresher and more up-to-the-minute. BHS was for years flatteringly compared with its much bigger rival, Marks & Spencer. But it was a misleading comparison: their only real similarities were a dogged dedication to value for money, and a no-frills store design to convince the customer that not a penny more than necessary was being spent on frilleries.

Today's shoppers want more than that, though. Standards have risen in the past decade to the point where people are less price-conscious and more entertained, amused and surprised. That is the sizzle that Sir Terence can add to the worthy BHS sausage.

Whether it is cost effectiveness or just fashion, the vogue for turning simple shops into seductive retail environments has created a new breed of consultancy. What used to be the relatively simple art of window dressing has become a fully-fledged profession.

Mr Rob Davie is one of its foremost members. He is the managing director of Michael Peters Retail which claims the unique distinction of designing a chain of Dumbell shops which would appeal to the Japanese market. Mr Davie believes that, on home territory, giving a fashion shop a new look can cost between £45 and £60 for every square foot of selling space.

In the clothing business, where the retailer's mark-up gives plenty of leeway for extravagant displays, such expenditure is fast becoming the norm; but the sheer cost does

explain why grocers, for example, tend to restrict their idea of the retail environment to fluorescent lights and a coat of emulsion.

"In the fashion business, environment is now a very important part of the mix", says Rob Davie. At the younger end of the market, where fashions change fastest, the stores, too, now aim for a new look every couple of years at the most.

Take "Top Shop", explains Mr Davie, referring to the Burton Group's chain which is consistently top of the teenage charts. "In terms of display, Top Shop uses current street language to put over its message." If you are not planning to wear multi-coloured woolen leggings this Christmas, you are not intended to understand the lingo.

Like teenage customers, the stores are in search of their own identity: they want to be sure of their place in the market. The Next chain, launched by the Hepworth tailoring company, provided a text-book example of retail marketing: of finding the perfect niche and going all out to win it. But while fashion stores have had no difficulty in pin-pointing their markets, the department stores and chain stores have been suffering something of an identity crisis, and they have turned to the store designers for some radical retail psychotherapy.

When Burton Group launched its £600 million takeover bid for Debenhams it made great play of the fact that Debenhams was a store without an image and therefore no obvious customer base. The new Debenhams image will emerge gradually and will be younger and livelier than before.

Marks & Spencer itself had suffered a slight image setback a couple of years ago. While its food was the source of many an up-market dinner party, its fashions were sufficiently off-target for the company to be seriously worried.

Enter some new merchandise and the store designers. "It is not just a superficial new look", insists Mr Tony Kelly, an executive at the M & S Baker Street headquarters. "We had to get the products right first, otherwise it would not be worth changing the store environment." The combination, however, looks likely to have a dramatic effect on M & S sales which are already running at well over £3 billion a year.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 811)

ACROSS	1 Rocks (6)	5 Married Frenchwoman (6)	7 Perfect (4)	8 Wealth (8)	9 Mother country (8)	13 Howl (3)	16 Hormone science (13)	17 Obscure (3)	19 Healer (8)	24 Glacial fissure (8)	25 Just (4)	26 Gaffer's aide (6)	27 Small boat (6)	
DOWN	1 Swindle (4)	2 Fireworks explosive (9)	3 Gloat (5)	4 Grieve over (5)	5 Act (4)	6 Mohammed's birthplace (5)	10 Surpass (5)	11 Assumed name (5)	12 Male bee (5)	13 Backfire (9)	14 Spool toy (2,2)	15 BBC (4)	18 Main artery (5)	19 Progeny (5)

SOLUTION TO No 810
ACROSS: 1 Pledge 5 Dupe 8 Endow 9 Piccadilly 11 Conclude 13 Peril
15 Follow through 17 Rate 18 Comedown 21 Harness 22 Fatal 23 Fled
24 Yarrow
DOWN: 2 Loden 3 Dew 4 Expeditiously 5 Deep 6 Plateau
7 Henchforth 10 Dutch uncle 12 Loot 14 Brac 16 Literal 19 Outdo
20 Mend 22 Far

Boy behind the racket

The latest fracas in John McEnroe's stormy career came yesterday in Melbourne — and ended with an extraordinary confessional outburst to the press. Richard Evans reports



'People don't give you a chance.' McEnroe in Melbourne yesterday

I was going to be a slow news day at Kooyong when rain washed out play at the Australian Open tennis championships. One of those days when editors send their reporters to fish for a good story. Except that with John McEnroe around, the bait did not have to be very big or subtle.

By noon the local television news shows had the story of McEnroe shoving the man from the Melbourne Herald backwords over a chair in the lobby of his hotel. They also had pictures of him spitting at a photographer.

By late afternoon the papers had more quotes than they knew what to do with because McEnroe, the man who allegedly hates talking to the press, had turned the interview tent at Kooyong into a confessional and poured his heart out for 45 minutes.

He talked about his relationship with Ryan O'Neal's daughter Tatum — "At some point we're going to get married, but I have no idea when," he said, denying a rumour that she was pregnant. But he also went deeper, revealing his all-embracing respect for the game of tennis, and his fears for its future.

By the end of that extraordinary session, there were several hard-nosed reporters who wondered how so much sensitivity and intelligence could be hidden behind the belligerent public mask.

Even for those of us who know him as the intensely private person he craves to be, it is not an easy question to answer. In part, it has much to do with his New York upbringing, his hatred of hypocrisy, his refusal to accept that people he has to deal with do not match his own standards of excellence; and the weird contradictory measures of arrogance and humility that exist in his personality.

He demands respect as a tennis champion yet, equally, finds it absurd that the press consider a mere tennis player worthy of front page news. Naturally the situation has become exacerbated by the fact that he now travels with Tatum O'Neal, who is a celebrity in her own right.

"I realize people want to know certain things about us but I don't really think they want to know what colour toilet paper I use," he said at one point during his marathon confession. "I'm proud of being with her. I'm not trying to hide her in the closet in my hotel room as some people imagine. In any case, she can handle all this sort of thing much better than I can. But people don't give you a chance. Being a celebrity is like being raped. There's nothing you can do about it."

"We're together now, we're happy," he said. "Everybody's writing that Ryan says we're going to get married — everything's great. Why can't people just leave me be? It's just got so far out of control that it's affecting me at other times. I feel like I want to get out." He and Tatum's father got on "very well," he added.

McEnroe's lack of respect for certain sections of the press has descended to even greater depths in recent weeks because of a series of totally erroneous stories. They emanated from a female

chief in south-west France, who announced that she was preparing a dinner for McEnroe and was supposed to be giving in California on November 16.

"There were stories that I was getting married on that day and that I had invited President Reagan," he said. "I laughed at first, but I didn't laugh when there were 10 reporters camped outside my hotel in Paris and I didn't laugh when I had to deny the story again in Spain and in Belgium. But no one listened because suddenly the Wall Street Journal, which is probably the most conservative non-sports paper in the world, printed it as if it was fact. So by then people just assumed I was lying and that's what frustrated me. You people should be proud of what you write, and take care to research it."

The intensity of McEnroe's feelings is obvious — as is the hurt he feels at being portrayed as an intolerant brat who brings his sport into disrepute. The degree of antagonism his outbursts incite still eludes him.

"People constantly try to bring me down wherever I go and I'm just tired of having to deal with that," he said. "If you want to dwell on the negative side, you could argue that I've hurt the sport of tennis; that young kids are being hurt by what I do and so on, but as far as I am concerned, I've done more good than harm and I don't see people writing that."

Certainly the love he has for tennis and the concern he shows for people he cares about are rarely accentuated. I remember one remark in particular from an interview he gave at the US Open this year. Talking about how standards of play would always go on improving, he said: "I'd love to see the day when I would play my very best tennis and lose. What great tennis you would see then!"

In Paris a few weeks ago, we were discussing the Davis Cup. As yet, McEnroe hasn't decided whether he will play for the US next year, having refused to sign a good behaviour pledge at the start of the 1985 campaign. A captain needs to be found to replace Arthur Ashe, and the front runner seems to be Stan Smith, but McEnroe is not

wholly in favour of the former Wimbledon champion getting the job.

"I've got nothing against Stan personally," McEnroe said. "But it's all politics and I don't know if he will be picked for the right reason. There are several people who could do the job just as well and who may need it more, both for financial reasons and because it would get something else going for them in the game."

"Stan doesn't need it, but someone like Tom Gorman or Marty Riessen or Dick Stockton would really be into it and that might turn out to be better for the team."

If such thoughtful assessments come as a surprise to those who have only seen the scowling on-court facade, so may the fact that McEnroe is, at heart, one of the game's great traditionalists.

Although he has asked Dunlop to make him a more powerful racket so that he can keep up with the Becker generation, he yearns for the time when subtler skills reigned supreme.

"Occasionally when I see one of those old wood Maxplys we used to play with lying around, I get an urge to pick it up and use it again," he said. "For me, that was real tennis. You couldn't get away with no-brain hitting with those rackets."

However, McEnroe is generous in his assessment of the new Wimbledon champion. "Boris is for real," he told me recently. "Although he would never have come on as fast if we had all been playing with wood, there is no way he will fail to get up amongst the top three unless he gets injured. He not only plays like a potential Number One, he acts like one."

McEnroe has never refused to give interviews after his matches and has never, in the seven years I have known him, tried to lie his way out of awkward situations. It is just that, on occasion, he can behave like a pig — and until his manners match his intellect, a solution to the problem does not come readily to mind.



Good times: with Tatum O'Neal in Paris this year. Bad times: Wembley 1982

Putting help on the line

With rape figures on the increase,

Rape Centres play a vital role in helping

the victims, says

Caroline Moorehead

When Jenny Miller answers the phone at the Rape Crisis Centre in Exeter she knows that there may be no sound down the line. For many women who have been raped and are unable to speak to family or friends of the assault the very act of ringing at all may represent the ultimate peak of their courage. For a while they can do no more. And with the number of rape attacks having increased by 27 per cent in the first six months of this year, the number of callers has also increased.

To fill the silence, Jenny Miller talks. Sounding as friendly as she can, she explains who she is and what the centre does; she suggests that if the caller cannot bring herself to talk, she might try ringing later. She asks the caller to make a sound to show that someone is actually there. This may provoke speech but it may cause the receiver to be put down.

Denise was not one of the speechless callers. She rang the Exeter centre 18 months ago and said she wanted to see someone. An appointment was made, as quickly as possible, since delays can lead to a change of mind.

Denise wanted to tell someone about the day, nine years before, when she was raped by a young man she knew and trusted. She was then 13 and had never mentioned it to anyone.

For some women, especially when the rape is recent, the need is for an outburst of talk, the tale told and retold, then perhaps laid to rest. For others, the trauma goes deeper. In these cases, the press of exploration and reassurance is gradual. Jenny Miller and her 11 colleagues are trained to take their cue from the women themselves; they learn to assess the nature of their needs and then offer what they think best.

For Denise the process lasted nearly a year. For the first four meetings they talked of her childhood and of her relationship with her mother. Not until the end of the month did the rape enter their conversation. "That is the hard part," Jenny Miller says. "There were long silences. You have to let it come from the woman herself, but you must also know when to prompt her." Four more sessions concentrated on the rape.

Then came a return to the teenage years, more minutely

never been out with a boy; they terrified her. Now she was about to become a teacher: how could she take a class?

Jenny Miller set her a series of small tasks to be faced one at a time, week by week: a conversation with a fellow male student; a small dinner party with both men and women; a visit to the pub. Soon Denise was invited out by a man: she went, and survived.

"From time to time she panicked," says Jenny Miller. "She would ring in despair. Slowly, calmly, I talked her back." Denise's character began to change; the self-confidence became real.

Not all traumas caused by rape are so easily smoothed away, however. Many women, who seem to have recovered, experience sudden bouts of

Some, especially those in the larger cities, are open 24 hours a day; those without the funds to do so leave encouraging messages on answer-phones, urging the caller to ring again. Because they are all autonomous and funded in a variety of ways and usually run by collectives of women, approaches and attitudes can differ.

But while it is possible for a woman to receive treatment privately, from a psychotherapist, or even through a

'We help women put their lives together again'

community health service, only a Rape Crisis Centre deals exclusively with rape.

The London Centre consists of 25 women, some paid, some volunteers, working on a 24-hour-a-day rota. They receive 70 calls each week, and the number is growing. The Exeter branch, open for just under two years, has received 117 calls since January.

Some of the women who ring are talking, like Denise, of a rape that happened many years before others are desperate to speak of the experience at once. Many report guilt and a sense of responsibility for what has happened. Others fear that they will not be believed and are terrified of the repercussions.

Some cannot sleep, be on their own or work with men. Experience from both psychiatrists and the Rape Crisis Centres shows that the sooner a woman who has been raped can start talking about it, the faster she will come to terms with it.

No one knows exactly how many women and girls are raped in this country each year. Around 30 cases are said to be reported to the police each week, but women's organizations believe that 11 out of 12 women who have been raped are too frightened to report it. What seems clear is the need for sympathetic listeners. When Scotland Yard set up a hotline in October to look for two rapists wanted in 23 attacks, 600 women phoned in; many had never mentioned their experience before, to anyone.

Few doubt the efficacy of counselling. Where there are worries it is over the methods and attitudes of some of the individual centres. Since there is no umbrella organization, the sort of emphasis received by callers differs. "Counsellors," said one psychiatrist, "must be properly trained and not all are. Inexperienced people can do great harm." But the best, as one woman put it, "help women to put their lives together again."

If a woman cannot talk to her family or her friends and if her doctor is not friendly, then a Rape Crisis Centre will help. There she can be sure to find a woman who is on her side, has heard it all before and will not judge her.

London Rape Crisis Centre, 01-837 1600. In other areas centres are listed under "Rape" in the telephone directory.



terror when something happens to remind them of the assault. But psychiatrists agree that there is no better method than prolonged listening and counselling to guide women out of the mental nightmare of shame and fear that frequently follows a rape.

"Rape is still a completely taboo subject," says one experienced counsellor. "It's an act of violation, when the body has been violated and control taken away. We have to help women regain control over their own bodies and their own lives."

The benefit of counselling comes, says a psychiatrist, from talking through the event, reliving it in detail and coming to terms with it. "That way, it becomes manageable, and its role in other subsequent behaviour and feelings better understood."

The line pursued by the Crisis Centre counsellors is based closely on current psychotherapeutic techniques, the gradual rehearsing and reliving of fears and anxieties, the formulation of new and better forms of behaviour as the old ones are understood and rejected.

The first Rape Crisis Centre opened in London in the mid-1970s. Today there are 45 in Britain with more opening.

'This is still a completely taboo subject'

examined, and in particular Denise's feelings for her mother, and the fact that she had been unable to tell her what had happened.

Supported by the weekly talks, she decided to visit her mother and raise the matter. The day before, there was an extra session to discuss how the subject would be broached. Denise's mother proved receptive; it seemed the beginning of something positive.

By now three months had passed. From her mother, Denise moved on to the subject of men. She was 21 and had

Pampered with a hamper

Glowing colour ads for Christmas hampers are the festive season's early warning signals. Cornucopias of good cheer spill their contents with an artful semblance of generosity.

Hampers with champagne hit the right note, and good wines and single malts would be fine. But I wonder how many of those tins of game soup and pressed tongue are still in the back of cupboards when it is time to gather in the holly for another year?

There is something a bit soulless about bought hampers. Yet what could be more personal than a basket filled with someone's favourite tea, their preferred sherry and first choice biscuits?

Many traditional hamper fillers are as good or better when home-made and some of the most acceptable edible presents need no cooking at all. Take chilli oil, an astoundingly good addition to any pizza. Put about an ounce of dried red chillies into an attractive bottle and fill with a mild olive oil. After a week or two the heat of the chillies will powerfully flavour the oil which can then be sprinkled cautiously on pizzas before or after baking.

Cinnamon sugar for cinnamon toast can be packed in a jar or a pretty tin. Mix four parts of caster sugar with one of fresh ground cinnamon and sprinkle thickly on hot buttered toasts, before grilling it to a cinnamon toffee topping. Sweet and savoury preserves are welcome too. As well as jams and jellies made in summer, there might be a jar of confit of goose or duck salted and cooked in its own fat to star in a cassoulet.

Bourbon biscuits makes about 50
Vanilla essence
3 large eggs
285g (10oz) caster sugar
285g (10oz) plain flour
Pinch of salt



Shona Crawford Poole



Break the eggs into a large bowl and add a few drops of vanilla essence and 255g (9oz) of the sugar. Beat until the mixture is very pale and the whisk leaves a trail.

Sift together the flour and salt and fold this into the eggs. Mix well and spoon the mixture into a large piping bag fitted with a plain nozzle. Pipe 7cm (3in) fingers of the mixture on to baking sheets which have been well greased and floured, or lined with baking parchment. Dust the biscuits with the remaining sugar and set them aside for an hour to dry before baking.

Bake the biscuits in a pre-heated hot oven (200°C/400°F,

gas mark 6) for about 10 minutes, or until they are lightly coloured. Allow the biscuits to cool for a few minutes before transferring them to a wire rack. Use them in trifle.

For fancy ginger biscuits which can be decorated for the table or the tree with gold leaf (from artists' suppliers like Corneliussen, 22 Great Queen Street, London WC2E, prices from £13.06 for 25 leaves) choose a stable dough like the recipe which follows.

Ginger biscuits makes about 100
90ml (3fl oz) double cream
110g (4oz) dark muscovado sugar
120ml (4fl oz) molasses
2 teaspoons ground ginger
2 teaspoons grated orange zest
½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
340g (12oz) plain flour
2 egg yolks mixed with 2 tablespoons of water to glaze

Whip the cream until it is thick in a large bowl. Beat in the sugar, molasses, spices, orange zest and bicarbonate of soda. Sift the flour and add it all at once. Knead the mixture into a firm dough, adding a little more flour if needed.

Roll out the dough thinly on a lightly floured surface and use plain or fancy cutters to stamp out as many biscuits as you can. Arrange them on baking sheets lined with buttered greaseproof paper or baking parchment. Brush the biscuits with egg glaze and bake them in a pre-heated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for about 20 minutes if they are to be eaten, about 30 minutes for the tree. It is easier to pierce holes for string in the uncooked dough than to drill them afterwards.

Rest the biscuits for about five minutes before transferring them to a cooling rack. When quite cold, decorate them before storing in an airtight container.

ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH

YES OR NO

Would you give insulin to a diabetic child?	
Would you retain Society's hard won control over polio, diphtheria, TB and smallpox?	
Would you agree we must have medicines and vaccines which have been tested for safety?	
Would you agree we need to alleviate and control, for example, cancer, arthritis and multiple sclerosis?	
Would you agree we have to safeguard the future health of the country's population?	

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THE TIMES DIARY

Collision course

Tories, beware. Only months before the expected general election date, a naval copyright case involving senior figures in Mrs Thatcher's government opens for an embarrassing 45-day trial in January 1987. Mrs Thatcher is said to be alarmed by the case - which naval circles believe will make Clive Ponting's trial look "like a vicar's tea party" - and she has formed a special investigation team in her Downing Street policy unit. As it reported earlier this year, the plaintiff company, Osprey Ltd, believes the nationalized British Shipbuilders may have used plans of the "Osprey" patrol vessel to assist in the design of the Royal Navy's new patrol craft, HMS Peacock. It is understood that certain documents Osprey wishes to use against BS will reveal a major scandal behind the selection procedure and procurement of ships for the Navy.

All together...

On the night before the Anglo-Irish deal was announced, Mrs Thatcher called Neil Kinnock, David Owen and David Steel to Downing Street to apprise them of it - the first time she has taken such action since the Falklands crisis. A measure of how important she considers the deal? Or of how much she was counting on opposition support to get it through Parliament?

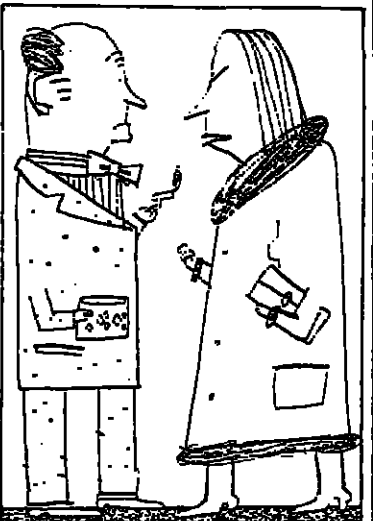
Notch this space

The 14 Unionist MPs who are resigning their seats in protest at the Anglo-Irish deal will pay heavily for their action, even if re-elected. They will lose their cherished rooms at the House of Commons. News of their decision has already triggered a stampede among disgruntled MPs forced to share cramped offices with colleagues. Heading the pack is Stuart Bell, Labour spokesman on - ironically - Northern Ireland, who has made it clear to his whips that come what may, he plans to "squat" in the office of Unionist leader James Molyneux.

From the depths

The Irish satirical magazine *Phoenix* is claiming that a Canadian salvage team has discovered the cause of the Air India Jumbo crash off the Irish coast in June in which 329 people were killed. It says that divers have retrieved parts of a transistor radio packed with explosives from a baggage compartment - a find consistent with evidence already delivered to the official inquiry in Delhi. *Phoenix* suggests that the Canadian authorities are sitting on the evidence to avoid huge insurance claims from relatives who would argue that Toronto airport's X-ray machines should have picked out the bomb.

BARRY FANTONI



Writ large

PN Structures, which faces financial ruin, will today issue a High Court writ against the GLC in an attempt to recoup £101,200 it is owed for erecting a Cultural Festival of India display at the Brent Show in September. Letters in my possession suggest that the GLC did indeed guarantee a substantial sum. To bypass the need for ministerial permission, however, Ken Livingstone (a Brent parliamentary candidate) and colleagues chose to make the payment through a backdated grant to the Indians - without first checking that they would accept it. Wary of political machination, they did not, and still won't. Hence the writ. A court order to the GLC could land Livingstone in trouble. If the GLC is shown to have entered into a contract for more than £15,000 without ministerial permission, any voter of a London borough can apply to the High Court to have those responsible disqualified from office and made liable for the money involved.

Down by one

Sir Tom McCaffrey, Robert Maxwell's special adviser and public affairs director, yesterday quit the Mirror Group in the wake of its boss's acrimonious dispute over naming with Sogat '82. Sir Tom, press secretary to James Callaghan in his days at No 10, was taken on 15 months ago to smooth Maxwell's takeover of the Mirror Group. I understand he could no longer live with Maxwell's negotiation-by-sublimation approach. A colleague said: "Sir Tom wanted negotiation, not confrontation. He is leaving as a man of principle." As he cleaned his desk, Sir Tom told me: "I'm not going to make waves now. I'll let you interpret that."

PHS

Why we must suffer Marcos

by Norman Podhoretz

Not much notice was taken last week when Lon Nol died his second death - the real, physical one. On the other hand, a great deal of attention was paid 10 years ago when he died his first death - the political one, the one that resulted in the transformation of the country then known as Cambodia, of which he was the last prime minister, into the chameleon house called the Democratic Republic of Kampuchea.

Two weeks before that first, political death - made inevitable by a complete cut-off of American military aid - Lon Nol predicted that if the communist Khmer Rouge guerrillas under Pol Pot came to power, they would kill all the educated people - the teachers, the artists, the intellectuals - and that would be a step toward barbarism.

The *New York Times*, speaking for the conventional wisdom of that moment, disagreed. No sooner had Lon Nol and his remaining American supporters fled Phnom Penh before the advancing enemy than it commemorated the event with a story under the headline: "Indochina without Americans: for most a better life."

Lon Nol turned out to be the better prophet, although not even he foresaw how gigantic "a step toward barbarism" his poor country was about to take. Not only did the Khmer Rouge communists kill all the educated people in the process of making their revolution they killed somewhere between a third and half of the entire population.

When he was still prime minister of Cambodia, Lon Nol had been described by

everyone as corrupt and ineffective, and no doubt everyone was right. Today, 10 years later, much the same is said about the Philippines under President Ferdinand Marcos. Like Lon Nol, Marcos faces a communist insurgency, by the New People's Army (NPA). And like Lon Nol too, Marcos is accused - with at least equal justification - of tyranny, mismanagement and corruption, although on an even larger scale.

Confronted with this situation, the Reagan administration is doing what the Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon administrations did in dealing with the corrupt and ineffective leaders of Vietnam and Cambodia. It is trying to put pressure on Marcos to institute reforms that it hopes against hope will undercut domestic support for the communist guerrillas.

And who exactly are they? Perhaps the most detailed answer to that question yet published is an article in the current issue of *Commentary* by Ross Munro, who has been covering the Philippines since 1978 for *Time* magazine. The article runs to 20,000 words, but its thesis is summed up in a title running only to four: "The new Khmer Rouge."

According to Munro, the NPA (now 20,000-strong and growing) has been conducting a "reign of terror" in the countryside "rivalling the Khmer Rouge in savagery if not yet in scale." The NPA tortures and kills indiscriminately, often "at the slightest pretext just to demonstrate its power and cold-bloodedness." But Munro finds an even more telling kinship with the Khmer Rouge in the ideological programme

of the NPA's "parent", the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

These former Maoists, who are now "avidly courting the Soviet Union", openly declare that upon establishing the People's Democratic Republic of the Philippines (the name is already chosen), they will mete out "severe punishment" to "enemies of the revolution and their collaborators" and will send "those who deserve leniency" to re-education camps.

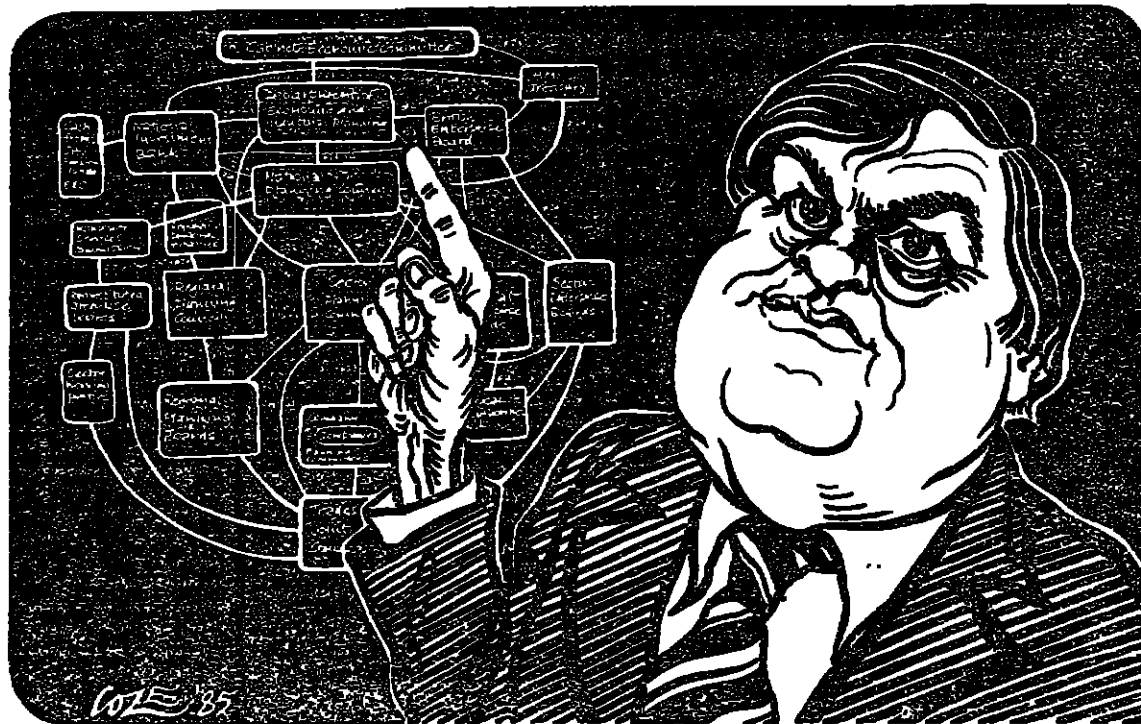
Evoking memories of the Khmer Rouge's forced evacuation of Phnom Penh, Munro quotes one CPP member as telling him that "most probably" the population of Manila would have to be "significantly reduced". No wonder that even "a radical but independent leftist who knows the CPP and the NPA well" told Munro: "I'm afraid we might be staring at a Pol Pot future."

Stipulate the worst that has been charged against Marcos - and Munro himself does. Concede to Munro as well that "if Marcos were to die or be toppled and succeeded by a competent, reformist government, it is quite conceivable that the current rapid growth of the communists could stall". But suppose no such competent reformist government is in sight. What then?

Should the US nevertheless help to topple Marcos? If it did, and in so doing helped ensure the victory of the NPA, would Americans some day look back on Marcos as they now look back on Lon Nol and contemplate what hideous thing followed that first, political, death he suffered with a little help from his American friends?

The author is the editor of *Commentary*.

Graham Mather contrasts two Labour economic blueprints



Will Kinnock buy this planning tangle?

Labour's shadow employment spokesman, John Prescott, has recently issued a comprehensive document, *Planning for Full Employment*. It fills in many gaps about the likely shape of Labour economic policies and attitudes to business should it win the next election.

A party committee under his chairmanship has produced a more authentic and comprehensive summary of established Labour policy proposals than previous economic spokesmen have been prepared to enunciate. A first attempt has also been made to explain how sector, regional and company planning committees, enterprise boards, joint union committees and the National Investment Bank would slot together in Labour's strategy. The Treasury's role, and that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, would be sharply downgraded to raising revenue, with "responsibilities" in areas such as exchange rates, interest rates and public sector borrowing.

Frankly admitting that "the experience of the past Labour governments with the Treasury has not been happy", the Prescott paper reaffirms the policy established in 1982, that a Department of Economic and Industrial Planning must become the main ministry for development.

Together with a new National Planning Council, the department would be responsible for planning the economy as a whole. It would coordinate a network of sector and regional planning committees which "will require new statutory powers to negotiate with firms and compel essential information to be disclosed".

Planning committees would also extend to individual companies, where "for planning committees to be effective and treated seriously, it is important to provide them with company funds". These would be complemented by wage earner funds established on a Swedish model, financed by taxes on "excess company profits".

Trade unions would be given the right, through joint union committees, to 30 per cent representation on the policy boards of

enterprises. Nowhere in the Prescott document, however, is there any suggestion that trade union representatives should be elected by ballot. Instead, it appears that nominations to bodies like sector planning committees will be by joint TUC trade union committees and shop steward's combine committees.

This sector planning approach could be initiated immediately, according to the document, in 13 or 20 industries whose organization is predominantly national or international or which occupy a central role in the economy.

The Prescott model expands upon the role of enterprise boards, which have been a prominent feature in Labour's policy, but about whose future, nationally, official spokesmen have remained quiet.

A renamed British Enterprise Board would supervise networks of regional and sectoral enterprise boards, which would "carry out investment plans of sector planning committees". These regional committees and boards would, therefore, largely take over from traditional forms of nationalization and state ownership. They explain the Prescott document's assertion that expansion of the public sector "remains very much part of Labour's programme".

New legislation, replacing the repealed Schedule 11 of the Employment Protection Act, would compel trade union recognition; companies would also face a significantly strengthened local authority Councils would be given control of a

strengthened wages inspectorate and responsibility for enforcing Labour's national minimum wage as it is phased in, as well as a significant role in sector and regional planning committees and enterprise boards.

The Prescott plan is not, it should be emphasized, an official statement of Labour Party policy. But many of its constituent parts are already of that status including the NIB, a Department of Economic and Industrial Planning, a statutory minimum wage and extension of trade union rights without recourse to ballots.

In his foreword to the document, Neil Kinnock refers to the options set out within it as "practical" and "realistic"; it undoubtedly therefore deserves wider circulation than it has had to date.

John Smith, Labour's Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, confirmed in a recent interview in *Tribune* that much of the thrust of *Planning for Full Employment* has his approval. Explicitly stating that a new planning body would be established, he said: "The idea of economic planning, of industrial intervention, of the government taking responsibility for shaping Britain's industrial future is absolutely central to the Labour Party's beliefs and ideas."

Calling for an "enormous expansion" of public support for industry, Smith also confirmed the role of the British Enterprise Board as an additional force for economic intervention. The protectionist thrust of the Prescott document also found support: "We have got to

build an El Alamein line round some of our industries."

To many businessmen the total effect of those proposals will bring to mind the brief spell as Industry Secretary of Mr Tony Benn, whose aims for a massive development of state planning in the economy, according to Sir Campbell Adamson, the former director-general of the CBI, led to some industrialists considering taking dramatic protest measures. Benn was moved to the Department of Energy.

More relevant for contemporary policy analysis, however, must be the startling divergence between the shape of policy set out in the Labour/TUC joint document as amplified by John Prescott's working group and John Smith's *Tribune* interview, and the guarded approach made by Roy Hattersley, the Shadow Chancellor, which focuses on aspects of policy which might appear to have a stronger electoral appeal.

Hattersley's speeches point to a very limited state intervention in the economy; the Prescott and Smith line points to a restatement of Benn's approach to state planning, using new techniques - the fruits of experience in local government. As serious work on party election plans now picks up pace, businessmen may wonder whether the two lines could ever be stitched together, and which way Neil Kinnock will jump.

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The author is head of the policy unit at the Institute of Directors.

The gale of change sweeping Fleet Street

Fleet Street proprietors are taking on the print unions - and seem to be getting away with it.

Even at Mirror Group Newspapers, where a one-day strike by Sogat '82 virtually halted publication on Monday, Robert Maxwell, the publisher, has wrung from each section of the workforce a commitment to talk about the loss of 2,000 out of 6,000 jobs. That such an outcome should be hailed as a victory by Brenda Dean, Sogat general secretary, is clearly a sign of the times.

At the Telegraph Group, management have had the temerity - admittedly through *force majeure* - to withdraw a 3 per cent wage deal payable next year. Despite considerable buffing and puffing the *Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Telegraph* have remained unscathed by any industrial disruption.

News International, owners of the *Sun*, *News of the World*, *The Times* and *Sunday Times*, has called for a legally binding no-strike deal for its new paper, the *London Post*, to be launched next year - and it has not been laughed out of court. Indeed, the company is already understood to have elicited an assurance that the traditionally conservative National Graphical Association is prepared to countenance the much sought-after "direct-input" to computers by journalists and advertising staff.

Workers at the Express Group have seemingly bared their necks for



Shah took on the NGA and won; Maxwell is insisting on big staff cuts; Murdoch wants a no-strike deal for his new paper

the axe to be wielded by David Stevens, chairman of United Newspapers, the new proprietors. Not a whimper has been heard by any union despite public pronouncements of 20 per cent cuts in staff within 18 months.

A few hundred yards away at Bracken House, where the *Financial Times* is published, the fearfully militant denizens of the machine room have been calmed by the prospect of legal action if there is so much as a squeak from them. If such an industrial relations scene were to be predicted just two years ago, it would have been attributed to Walt Disney.

The increasing pragmatism of the unions has encouraged newspaper groups' ambitions to leave their

expensive and overmanned plants in the Fleet Street area for the less expensive pastures of London's docks.

So what has happened to the potent combination of militancy over pay, political activism, and old-fashioned trade union solidarity which kept management in its place?

The charge can partly be explained by the generally high level of unemployment, a government with little time for unions and a labour movement whose attitude to the blunt instrument of industrial action is slowly changing. The more immediate cause is Eddie Shah, who until two years ago was a worthy proprietor of a small group of newspapers in the Manchester area.

His first contribution to the "new trade unionism" was to take on - and defeat - the mighty NGA, which lost £1 million in the courts for taking unlawful action against Shah's newspapers. It was a chastening experience. His second and more immediate contribution was to announce the arrival next spring of his seven-days-a-week, full colour national paper - complete with all possible electronic gadgetry and minimal staff. The outline no-strike deal with the right-wing-led electricians' union put the icing on the cake.

When Shah first announced his intention, there was not a little wailing and gnashing of teeth among the Fleet Street "barons", but they have subsequently come to use the "Daily Shah" as a stick with which to beat their own unions.

For all this it would be a mistake to think that print unions have been "defeated". Print union leaders are becoming more pragmatic the better to survive. And there is a strong argument, accepted by some of the lean committed of trade unionists, that new technology makes union membership more, not less, important. But for the moment in the "Street of Ink" the party, as Maxwell was fond of saying last weekend, is over.

Barrie Clement
Labour reporter

Jack Straw

Quality plus jollity

A squaking rubber banana, bought from the Battersea Fun Fair then treasured and squashed for months afterwards, is my only recollection of the 1951 Festival of Britain. I was five at the time. The full significance of the event was lost on me. Of the retrospective exhibition held 25 years later I have, however, a more powerful and haunting image. It is of the jacket of a book published in 1948 showing an "artistic impression" of the future - a new motorway, sweeping to infinity past a concrete tower block.

Only when I saw this book did I realize that the architectural brutalism which has done so much to undermine the social fabric of our inner cities was neither an accident nor a consequence of money-grabbing builders and politicians playing the numbers game but had emerged from a genuine and loving concern for the condition of the urban working class and a desire to give it something better than it had known in the past. Which only goes to show how suspicious we should be of those with genuine and megalomaniac schemes for other people's lives.

Those who wrote the book, and those who followed it, have had an apt memorial in the half-moonish tower block in Hackney which turned out to be too much even for the GLC's hired explosives experts.

Other memorials to the expectations of the Festival of Britain are far more durable, none more so than the Royal Festival Hall itself. As I sat listening to Giulini conduct the Philharmonia Orchestra last Friday I mused about two things. The first was that some people - Beethoven, and the soloist who played his violin concerto - have had a direct line to the Almighty; I feel no envy for them, just gratitude that I can also share the fruits of their divine inspiration. The second was that there is nothing brutal about the architecture of the interior of the Festival Hall: it has a spirit and warmth which should be appreciated by all Londoners.

When it first opened, the hall was a real people's palace; but gradually it turned into just another concert hall, unused and unloved for two thirds of the day. The catering facilities were meagre; the Riverside Restaurant was open at lunchtime but accessible only to executives from the nearby Shell HQ and others with expense accounts. Attendances at concerts fell for each of the 20 years from 1963 to 1983. It was a place fit only for Radio Three listeners. Box office staff told Tony Banks (now an MP) when he first became chairman of the GLC's arts and recreation committee that concert-goers often asked what they should wear as if the place were a private club, not a municipal facility built by Londoners for Londoners.

In the last four years - yes, since Labour took control of the GLC - all that has changed. In the past two years attendances at concerts have started to climb; the large concert and foyer areas are alive. Clerks with luncheon vouchers go there, as do impecunious civil servants. Pensioners use their GLC financed travel passes to get to the hall free, and stay there free for the day.

Contrary to the parody of the

present GLC as a blinkered group of ideologues, Banks and his colleagues have taken to do deals with all kinds of commercial concerns. If the result is to increase attendances and interest, Cadburys are sponsoring a national children's art exhibition in the foyer at the moment. In the first year of the open foyer policy, an estimated one million additional people visited the hall. The idea that culture is to be enjoyed only by an elite has been broken: art has been made accessible, but without any loss of standards.

There has been another message from all of this - that socialism can - and should - mean fun for all. Anthony Crosland, writing a few years after the Festival of Britain, in the *Future of Socialism*, warned of the dangers of socialism being too earnest: that "total abstinence and the good filling system are not now the right spirit for the socialists' Utopia; or at least if they are some of us will fall by the wayside". He pleaded for "grace and gaiety", "culture, beauty, leisure, and even frivolity".

It is perhaps ironic that it has taken the allegedly austere and hard-taken Labour group on the GLC to prove Crosland's point - that socialism in practice can be fun. The estimated 250,000 people who watched the last Thamesday cannot all be wrong.

When the GLC is finally executed on All Fools Day next year, the Environment Secretary, Kenneth Baker, is determined that, as London's government is wiped out, so must be the proper memory of its past. He is fired, no doubt, by a desire to wipe out his own past too: his support for the council over two decades, his claim in Parliament in March 1971 that the GLC "is making life better for Londoners; and it will make it infinitely better for Londoners in the 1970s and the 1980s".

Recently he told a private lunch in the City that his real wish was to see County Hall taken down brick by brick; but since that is not possible (the place is a listed building) it will be sold off, a temple of democracy sold to the money-changers. So the embodiment of 100 years of civic government, the memorial to the efforts of countless thousands of Conservatives and Liberals as well as socialists, to making life better for Londoners is to be razed - as Stalin razed the image of Trotsky, so great was his fear of opposition.

But what Baker and his colleagues will not be able to obliterate is the GLC's achievements: even in death Labour's policies will haunt them, as the example of London Transport has shown. "Fares fair" brought Londoners back to the buses and tubes; not even Nicholas Ridley can reverse that.

Not will Baker be able to stop the forces he has unleashed. A new London government will rise again, and if it cannot go back to County Hall it will have to go to the Guildhall. But, along with an elected post-GLC Common Council, we shall keep the fun. The Lord Mayor's show will have a special place in Labour's new Utopia.

The author is Labour MP for Blackburn

moreover... Miles Kington

A salaam to supersausage

A few months ago I was leafing through a magazine aimed at caterers and came across an article called: "Twelve Exciting New Recipes for Instant Mashed Potato". You may find this hard to believe, but I read the whole article without ever feeling a tinge of excitement. I am so cynical that I think I could read an article called "Ten Thrilling New Ways to Serve up Crisps" and not be thrilled. Perhaps it's the concept of catering that depresses me, this thing that seems to have replaced cooking without the British being in the least upset about it.

Nobody seems to worry, for instance, that British chips, especially in fish and chip shops, are seldom the crisp exciting things they are meant to be. Nobody seems to mind that the words "serving suggestion" on the side of a tin generally involve placing the contents on half a leaf of lettuce.

Normally I keep these melancholy thoughts to myself as insisting on print is as ill-mannered as insisting on telling people your dreams or describing your latest burglary in detail. I mention them today only because I have some good news with which to counter-balance them. *Catering and Hotelkeeper* magazine has organized a competition to find a new British fast food product, comparable to the hamburger, the item must be hot and savoury, and made from fresh home-produced materials. (My italics, but you are welcome to share them.)

Yes, the catering world has opened up a niche for fresh, home-produced food - one might even use the word cooking. The winner of the £1,000 first prize will not be able to use instant mashed potato, or crisps, or spam, or bottled cocktail sauce, or tinned baked beans. He or she will have to use things that shortly before were alive and kicking, or at least alive and growing. I think I feel a tinge of excitement, even a thrill or two. Especially as I have already decided what my entry will be. The sausage.

Nothing new about that, you might say. Ah, but I'm not talking about the thing that goes under the name of sausage and is sold in transparent packets, like unidentified artefacts in a museum show-case - not those bland, breadly, fat-filled fingers, containing bits of animals that no one else wants. I'm talking

about real sausages, sausages which actually taste of something, sausages like the ones you get in the Savoy Grill on a Monday.

I know about this only because six months ago I mentioned in print my disillusionment with British sausages and promptly got a challenge from a young chef at the Savoy to try his. My curiosity built up over five months until a couple of weeks ago I went along to accept his challenge. Keith Stanley was right; they are excellent. And the oddest thing was, even odder than going to the Savoy for sausages, that he had not made them himself.

They're made to an old farmhouse recipe by a family near my home in Kent, he said. "They've been making them for generations. I pestered them for the recipe until they gave it to me, and then I made them here at the Savoy, but the funny thing was they didn't taste the same at all. I just couldn't get it right, something to do with the blending. I think so now I've gone back to the family firm and collected a shipment, every weekend and bring them in, with me. That's why we only do them on Mondays."

Of course, some butcher's shops do make good sausages. You can, make good ones at home - there's a marvelous recipe in *The Apple Book*, published by Bodley Head, involving minced pork, gristle, apples, and herbs, with no skins. But the kind of sausages has no place in the fast-food catering world, so it might just be a sufficient novelty to be worth a flutter for the £1,000 prize.

By coincidence, I met a meat merchant last week, a man who buys, and sells large quantities of dead, animal, and I asked him what would happen if the British were suddenly presented with real sausages.

"They'd hate them," he said. "monsters." They'd find them far too rich. They'd find the old familiar product and never question contents, be it fat, gristle or paddy-whack.

Paddy-whack? This, it turns out, is the name for a kind of gristle, that new kind of meat and spine which, when boiled down, makes a good binder. The very thought of it makes me unexcited and unthrilled. Paddy-whack seemed such a nice word till I found out what it meant. I feel my catering depression coming on again. I think I'd better stop before I get too surly and anti-social.



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DEBATING THE FALKLANDS

Voting takes place today in the UN debate on the Falkland Islands after a diplomatic war of nerves between British and Argentine officials during the last 48 hours in New York. Last year the Argentines failed to increase their support despite a personal plea by the General Assembly by President Raúl Alfonsín - but still managed to win the annual contest by 59 votes to nine with 54 abstentions. This year the Argentine-inspired motion is couched in more anodyne form, urging discussion on "all aspects" of the islands' future. Intense lobbying by Buenos Aires has already persuaded France and Italy to vote in favour, while Greece, Denmark, West Germany and Holland might also succumb.

The official British position is that the motion, whatever it may say (or not say), remains a thinly-disguised attempt to introduce sovereignty over the islands as a subject for negotiation. So Britain will still vote against it - unless the UN accepts two British amendments. These acknowledge the islanders' right to self-determination under the UN Charter. If the amendments are accepted, Britain will abstain instead of voting against. Argentina has meanwhile responded by letting it be known that it would regard a vote for the British amendments as "an unfriendly act".

Behind the diplomatic language, what is going on? Support for the British position has eroded - as has been predicted for some time. The defection of two, and maybe more, European

partners suggests that they now consider us more intransigent than the Argentines. Moreover President Alfonsín's position in Argentina is much stronger than it was a year ago, and arguments based on the fragility of Argentina democracy look that much weaker.

In fact, however, while Buenos Aires has clearly seen the advantage of a blander resolution at the UN, it has not proved any blander in bilateral exchanges. It has continued to press its case in its favourite UN arena with unabashed vigour. While Alfonsín's increased confidence is apparent in his government's more relaxed manner on Anglo-Argentine matters, this is unmatched by any noticeable relaxation in content. There has been more willingness to recognize the importance of the Falkland Islands in its government's foreign policy, but no practical confidence-building measures.

How should the two governments move forward? Sir Geoffrey Howe's manner well suits Falkland Islands matters at this time: low-key, pedantic, precise, realistic, well-informed on the island. He has the safest pair of hands in the South Atlantic. He has done his best to restore normal relations with Argentina but he has been unable to offer what the Argentines deem essential: discussions that include the issue of sovereignty. The Argentine government does not consider that partial discussions would at this point favour their cause, and therefore Britain's cautious official feelers have so far been rebuffed.

President Alfonsín has, how-

ever, met Mr Kinnoch, Mr Healey, and Mr Steele. The first two agreed with him that negotiations should be started on "outstanding problems", and the third agreed that reopening of relations should be on "an agenda which includes all matters separating the two countries". He has thus made some progress in quarters which he must hope will have influence in years to come. He is certainly right to take a long view. No solution to the Falklands issue is likely to be quick.

The British amendment to the Argentine UN resolution should serve as a general reminder that such negotiations would involve principles of the greatest weight. They cannot be easy and ought never to be easy negotiations. Self-determination is not a negligible matter. However, the notion of self-determination cannot bring this particular territorial conflict to an end, if only because in unrefined form it is an argument that no Argentine government can conceivably be expected to accept.

Familiar arguments will be rehearsed in New York. Repeating arguments does not make them better, though some hearers on the sidelines may be weary of changing their vote one way or the other. Nor does wowing indifferent voters in the UN bring a solution to this essentially bilateral and Anglo-Argentine problem much closer. It will be a small advance if the argument this year is a shade less strident than last. At least that will less impede the direct but genuinely open discussions that some day must occur.

HERR KOHL'S SUMMIT PROBLEM

The fact that today's regular meeting between Mrs Thatcher and Chancellor Kohl is unlikely to hit the headlines does not diminish its importance. If between Britain and West Germany there are no major bones of contention, such as would make the headlines, then this happy state of affairs is at least partly due to these regular meetings between Europe's two top Conservative leaders, and their senior ministers. Indeed, the real texture of our bilateral relations is certainly no thinner than that of Franco-German relations, to which Bonn has traditionally attached top priority, although the rhetorical texture sometimes appears so.

The two most important topics which Mrs Thatcher and the West German Chancellor will want to discuss in their mini-summit are not, however, bilateral ones. They are, undoubtedly, the way forward from the Geneva summit, with particular reference to the Strategic Defence Initiative, and the way forward to the important Luxembourg meeting of the European Community. On the latter issue we would appear - to judge from the rhetoric - to be much further from the German position than the French are; on the former much closer. But in both cases it is dangerous to judge from the rhetoric.

If the British government is reluctant to talk about "European Union" in the abstract, it is not reluctant to take most of the concrete steps which alone give substance to that concept. On the completion of the internal market, on technological or environmental co-operation, Britain has as many practical

proposals as anyone. We wish to start with the foundations, not the roof. Only in regard to the European Monetary System can we be accused of dragging its feet in a manner which may be deleterious both to our own interests and to the wider interests of the Community. Nor is the gap as wide as it has long appeared on the question of treaty revisions. On looking forward to Luxembourg, then, the rhetorical differences are probably wider than the real ones.

On questions of East-West relations, however, and in particular on the fraught subject of SDI, we suspect that the reverse may be the case. On this issue, as on several others, the Kohl government finds itself in a state of more or less benign confusion. Franz Josef Strauss cheerfully calls for a full-scale treaty with the United States on "star wars" research co-operation, of the kind which the British government has negotiated, but not yet signed. Hans-Dietrich Genscher mournfully concedes that it will probably be impossible to avoid some involvement, but talks in terms of an exchange of letters between the responsible Ministers in the Federal Republic and the United States. Helmut Kohl characteristically affirms that they are both right, and was recently heard to suggest that the Ministers could exchange letters, which exchange could then be described as a kind of inter-governmental treaty. However, he has committed himself to declaring a definite position by the end of the year. It could be interesting to hear what he tells Mrs Thatcher when they meet for their "fireside summit" at nine o'clock this morning; and

still more interesting to hear what Herr Genscher tells Sir Geoffrey Howe when they meet separately at the same time.

The Bonn government has two special reasons for concern, apart from those reservations about the intrinsic merits of SDI which Sir Geoffrey Howe apparently shares. One is its political desire to give the maximum possible support to the French-launched "Eureka" programme. The other is fear of Moscow's wrath. Herr Genscher is working very hard to repair and in places even to reconstruct his Ostpolitik, after two nasty years of Soviet coldness over the new NATO INF deployments, and another absurd campaign against alleged West German "revanchism".

Bonn pulpitizes with rumours that the visit to West Germany by the East German leader, Erich Honecker, postponed under Soviet pressure last summer, will after all go ahead, perhaps even before Christmas. In Geneva, answering a question from an East German journalist, Mr Gorbachov himself seemed to give a green light for this visit. But he was also vehement in denouncing "star wars". So Herr Genscher may reason that any step forward towards participation in SDI research could be a step backwards for his Ostpolitik. This is a dilemma which Britain does not face - at least not in anything like the same measure. Some West German officials have been suggesting recently that if only Britain would actually sign its SDI treaty with the United States, they might feel more comfortable about following suit. On the other hand, they might not.

THE WAY AHEAD FOR RAIL

The latest management changes made by Sir Robert Reid, chairman of British Rail, will give Mr Geoffrey Myers, presently senior joint managing director, full responsibility for the total management of the railway business as vice chairman. He has a tough job on his hands.

British Rail is currently in the Government's good books for its astute judgement of the true feelings of employees over job and productivity issues which helped to call the confrontational bluff of Mr Jimmy Knapp, the General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen. Sir Robert has also made steady progress at silencing down the railways within their broad existing shape, by attacking unit costs of track and train maintenance and of signalling as well as by making more dramatic productivity moves such as bringing in one-man operation in some areas.

Partly as a result, British Rail has gained credibility in proposing and winning investment in electrification of the East Coast line and new trains for local provincial services. The latest five-year plan meets the Government's objectives for subsidy reduction overall.

In the detail of how the objectives are to be met, however, this rosy picture begins to lose some of its bloom. The

Inter-City services, for instance, are supposed to be run on a fully commercial basis. Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, decreed a year ago that Inter-City subsidies must end in 1988-89, a year in which the corporate plan sees a £36 million loss, partly through more realistic allocation of overheads.

The freight business, also destined to be fully commercial, has lost business permanently as a result of the coal strike and the response of some BR workers to it, confirming an atmosphere of decline. Accelerated property sales are presently expected to bridge the overall gap left by freight and Inter-City problems.

The more immediate problem is to meet the planned reduction in central subsidy - the Passenger Service Obligation grant - from £812 million this year to a still huge £713 million in 1986-87. As commuters discovered last week, British Rail's primary answer is to raise rail fares comfortably more than the expected rate of inflation - an average of 8 per cent, with Inter-City customers facing increases of around 10 per cent.

It is in the nature of utilities such as railways that short-term revenue can always be raised by increasing prices. British Rail hopes to raise an extra £77 million in a full year from the new fare imposts. It is far harder for railway management to be

sure that they are not thereby merely putting off the evil day when more customers will desert for road or even air travel.

In the long-term, indeed, one of the more depressing features is that the proportion of revenue drawn from first-class travel is only half the proportion of capacity devoted to it. If railways, and particularly the Inter-City services are to hope for an improving commercial future, then a high priority must be to enhance revenue per passenger mile by supplying superior services that customers are prepared to pay for. A railway that degenerates into subsidised travel for the poor will always be under pressure and always in danger of further decline.

The five year plan sees more emphasis on luxury travel with Pullman coaches, telephones and computerised seat reservations. But British Rail is still a long way behind its more successful equivalents abroad.

In ten years time, a fixed link across the Channel could provide new inspiration and impetus for genuine expansion of long-distance freight and passenger business. That is for the moment only a hope. Meanwhile, the uprating of well-marketed services must go hand in hand with continuing pressure from subsidy reduction to improve efficiency if British Rail is to be ready for the challenge.

Way of escape in Northern Ireland

From Professor James O'Connell

Sir, There are three different, if overlapping, struggles being carried on in Northern Ireland. The first is a struggle for improved civil rights by Catholics/nationalists; the second is a civil war between minority Catholic groups and Protestant groups; and the third is an insurrection by small republican groups against British rule.

The first struggle is the most fundamental one in that it has most Catholic and nationalist support. But it creates a residual if crucial support for the nationalist groups involved in the other two struggles. The merit of the recent Anglo-Irish accord is that it may with time detach Catholics from the second two struggles and isolate the gunmen from their social sympathy and support.

It is disingenuous of supporters of the agreement to argue that sovereignty remains intact on both sides of the accord. It does in a legal sense - the British, for example, have the right to ignore Irish views but the accord itself accepts that they will carry political weight. Yet only the worst-case scenarios of politicians with a siege mentality tend to see every move, even one that may conciliate their minority and work against violence, as leading to the end of the Union.

In this context I would like to put two considerations before Unionist leaders: the unlikelihood of Irish unity and the danger to the Union from Unionist reaction.

First, the republic could not integrate politically a million dissident Protestants, who would unbalance a delicately poised party system; it could not meet without disaster the economic consequences of paying Ulster's bills; and it would not want the destructive damage to human rights that coping with Protestant revolt would bring.

These unpalatable implications of Irish unity can be ignored by people like Mr. Haughey only while Irish unity remains a distant chimera. This incapacity of the republic to absorb Northern Ireland adds any firmness that is needed to the guarantees offered by British and Irish governments to the Protestant majority.

Second, Unionists may so violently assault the form of the Union that they may harm the Union itself by alienating people in Britain. Should the Union disintegrate, they

Political levers in scholarship

From the President of The Royal Society and the President of The British Academy

Sir, We write to express our profound concern at the decision by the British organizing committee of next year's World Archaeological Congress at Southampton to exclude scholars coming from South Africa.

International science and learning are a precious and sensitive area in which political considerations should have no place. It is an indispensable condition of holding an international conference that bona-fide scholars should be admitted irrespective of nationality, domicile, or politics.

The committee's deplorable decision may well lead to Britain ceasing to be regarded by bodies such as the International Council of Scientific Unions as a fit place in which to hold an international congress.

The organizers were forced to their decision by intolerable pressures exerted from three directions. It is bad enough that the City Council of Southampton should subordinate academic to political values, it is far worse that the students of Southampton's university should have lent what weight they have to the suppression of free speech and academic exchange.

Most serious of all are the threats by the local branch of the Association of University Teachers, a body which should above all things resist attempts to use research and scholarship as levers for a political purpose.

It is of course all the more depressing that a result will be to ban South African scholars who have striven over the years to resist apartheid at home only to find themselves confronted by apartheid in Britain.

We are your obedient servants, ANDREW HUXLEY (President, The Royal Society), RANDOLPH QUIRK (President, The British Academy), The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, SW1. November 25.

But she did, and Dr Kennedy could have heard all about that on Channel 4's *A Week in Politics* on November 22, as follows:

Peter Jay: Prime Minister, may I press you for an absolute clarification on this important and interesting point... for these purposes (the Anglo-Irish agreement) does the republic's jurisdiction stop at the border or at the sea?

Dr G.F. FitzGerald: According to article III of our Constitution it stops at the border.

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ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 27 1897

During 1896-97 the pro-German faction had been obstructing the proceedings in the Austrian Reichsrath. At the same time the Young Czechs were arguing for state rights. The day following the incidents described below Count Badeni, the prime minister, was dismissed by the emperor Franz Joseph. Our correspondent was William Levine.

VIOLENT SCENES IN THE AUSTRIAN REICHSRATH.

INTERVENTION OF THE POLICE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

VIEENNA, Nov. 26. The scenes of violence which occurred at to-day's sitting of the Austrian Reichsrath will go a long way towards destroying the small credit which Parliamentary institutions still retain in this country. I cannot recall any instance, save in some respects, that of which late Mr. Bradlaugh was the hero, that had any resemblance to the proceedings witnessed here to-day...

Count Badeni walked leisurely to his place a few minutes before the President made his appearance. When the Chevalier von Abrahamovitch was eventually perceived making his way towards the chair a frightful tumult arose. The Social Democrats crowded round the platform, shaking their fists at him and calling him "scoundrel" and "wretch." The whole opposition cried "Shame upon you!" The Chevalier von Abrahamovitch is in the sixties. He is of tall stature, with a clean-shaven face and a profile strongly resembling that of the Duke of Wellington. He made some show of indifference to the turbulent demonstration which had followed his entrance. This seemed to enrage the Social Democrats, who forced their way to the chair and severely rebuffed the President, one of them taking him by the shoulders and pushing him to the wall. Others seized all the movable objects on their desks and hurled them into the space in front of the Ministerial bench. Members of the majority, seeing the President in danger of further violence, rushed to his rescue. One of the Social Democrats, Herr Berner, was thrown to the ground and pummeled by some half-dozen of his opponents about the head and face until it was believed in the gallery that his life was in danger. During the free fight that followed, Herr Berner was carried bodily out of the House by a group of Young Czechs, while the Chevalier von Abrahamovitch was safely escorted by his friends to the lobby, whither Count Badeni had previously withdrawn...

The interval that elapsed between the first clearance and the President's reappearance was filled up by some social remarks from Herr Schönerer to the police, which apparently caused much amazement to those trusty officials. At length Count Badeni came back to his place, now guarded by a double row of policemen. He was the object of much abuse from the part of a portion of the Opposition, which was, indeed, the case throughout the whole sitting. The worst epithets were, however, reserved for the Chevalier von Abrahamovitch when he first entered the House after the introduction of the police. It was shortly before 1 o'clock when he resumed his seat. The attitude of the assembly and the explosion of frantic rage with which he was received can only be described as a veritable pandemonium. Herr Wolf led the concert with a penny whistle. The President was seen to say a few words to a usher, who then fetched a commissary of police. That official informed Herr Wolf that he was excluded from the House for three sittings, and politely asked him to withdraw. On Herr Wolf's refusing to do so, the constables were introduced and forcibly ejected him. While this was taking place the Chevalier von Abrahamovitch retired to the lobby, returning when Herr Wolf had left the Chamber. Even the constables had difficulty in discharging their duty. Friends of Herr Wolf endeavoured to bar the passage as they advanced to lay hands on him, and it was only by dint of a good deal of scuffling that he was finally secured...

There are, after all, other truths besides those of the profit and loss account. One is that greed is no less greed because it is "blessed" by market forces. (That was an aspect of Mr MacGregor's millions and the reaction of the miners which was more or less lost on the City.)

Another truth is that the total preoccupation of a growing band of mobile business "mercenaries" with unbridled competition and unlimited profit as the only respectable, or "real", goals of business is ultimately enfeebling of a nation and its culture. It is a truth that the Japanese have held to rather successfully.

Yours truly, ANDREW PHILLIPS, 20 Old Bailey, EC4. November 20.

High-rise rewards

From Mr Andrew Phillips

Sir, It is fruitless, not to say hypocritical, for Sir James Clegg and the CBI to be appealing for below-inflation wage demands from the shop floor at a time when the average British boardroom employee is reported to be receiving rises of double the level of inflation, and more.

It cuts no ice for a director who justifies his own super-rise by reference to market forces to justify an appeal to his employees for wage moderation on the loftier grounds of the long term health of the industry, or even the nation.

There are, after all, other truths besides those of the profit and loss account. One is that greed is no less greed because it is "blessed" by market forces. (That was an aspect of Mr MacGregor's millions and the reaction of the miners which was more or less lost on the City.)

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Yours truly, ANDREW PHILLIPS, 20 Old Bailey, EC4. November 20.

Stopping car thefts

From Mr Jean-Jacques Dunn

Sir, The Prime Minister's decision to seek expert advice on the rapidly escalating problem of car thefts will surely be welcome news to all those motorists, insurers, policemen and others affected by this form of crime.

In seeking solutions to this problem it may well be that the experience of countries that suffer less than Britain does from this scourge can be a source of relevant inspiration.

In Belgium car owners are allocated personal registration plates which they retain for life. However, often they change cars. In Japan registration plates must be affixed to vehicles by the police using a tamper-proof and clearly visible sealing device.

A combination of the two might well serve to deter car thieves from an activity which is facilitated by the present registration system.

Yours faithfully, JEAN-JACQUES DUNN, 23 St Peter's Street, Islington, N1. November 21.

Uneasy lies the head

From Mrs Susan M. Robbins

Sir, Mrs Shaw (November 21) has commendably raised pillow-consciousness, but featherists must realize that the (high-quality) foamists count on hotels to shun the plumpous in favour of the synthetic, for the sake of clear bronchial tubes and easy nocturnal breathing.

Let the fowls sleep easily, too, while Mrs Shaw tries a really good synthetic pillow in the right kind of hotel.

Yours faithfully, SUSAN M. ROBBINS, 41 Teetot Road, SW10. November 21.

From Mr David Ibbotson

Sir, Feather pillows are expensive, difficult to clean, and the cause of allergic reactions in remarkably many people.

As such they are better fitted for craft displays and museums than for home or hotel bedrooms.

Yours truly, D. IBBOTSON, 27 Springfield Close, Stanmore, Middlesex. November 21.

Plea for Gartcosh

From Mr Tom Clarke, JP, MP for Monklands (West Labour)

Sir, In his letter (November 14) Mr Michael Forsyth, MP fails to point out that his view on Gartcosh is a minority one, not just in Scotland but among Scottish Conservative Party members.

Mr Forsyth's remarks are all the more inexplicable given that his last major foray into the media was a call on behalf of the farmers in his constituency for an even larger share of taxpayers' money.

His absurd account of Gartcosh's performance is belied by his own brilliant record, in terms of quality, prices, delivery dates and exports. The expensive advertising campaign,

which BSC are now undertaking to discredit that plant in any constituency, is in stark contradiction of their own publicity, which, until the day of the closure announcement, rightly extolled the virtues of the Gartcosh/Ravensraig complex.

The Church of Scotland (letter, November 11) were right to spell out the catastrophic social and economic implications for West Central Scotland should the Gartcosh closure take place.

Mr Forsyth must know that he does not speak for Scotland; on this occasion the Kirk most certainly does.

Yours faithfully, TOM CLARKE, House of Commons. November 14.

Brewery takeovers

From Mr A. J. Hobbs

Sir, I must object to your financial comment of November 13 which appears to want to see the Monopolies and Mergers Commission gagged and makes heavy weather of the motives behind brewery takeovers.

Recent history clearly shows that takeovers of one brewery by another are not in the public interest: breweries close, choice is reduced and price of the product invariably rises - the face of reduced competition.

Examples are not hard to find: in the past 12 months Marsons have taken over Border Brewery and closed it months later; Thwaites took over Yates and Jackson and closed the brewery three months later. In May, Mansfield took over North Country Breweries and closed them down this October. Greenhall Whitley took over Stimpkins in July

and immediately closed the brewery.

The writer shows an alarming degree of naivety in heaping praise on the way Scottish and Newcastle have presented its case. Matthew Brown owns four breweries, Scottish and Newcastle own three (having recently closed one in Edinburgh). Scottish and Newcastle are brewing under capacity, as are most breweries, and it is clear that one or more of its new acquisitions would close. Far from "preserving the character of Matthew Brown's beers" a takeover would mean their demise!

The best future for the brewing industry and its customers in this country is to have a large number of vigorously independent, truly local small companies - not a handful of giants serving their estate with photofit products from remote beer factories.

Yours faithfully, A. J. HOBBS, 51 Vernon Street, Newark, Nottinghamshire.

Gas privatization

From the Director of Age Concern

Sir, I read with interest today's Focus which concentrated on the forthcoming privatization of British Gas.

I was concerned to note the report made virtually no mention of the likely effects of privatization on domestic consumers, who account for over 50 per cent of the market for gas sold in this country.

Consumers' organizations are concerned that an unfettered gas industry may sacrifice the interests of customers to those of its shareholders and that poorer customers, many of whom are elderly people, will lose out. Many point to

British Telecom's massive 8.6 per cent increase in standing charges which penalized older and poorer consumers in order to fund reductions in bills to businesses as an indicator of what may happen in future.

Your article did much to emphasize British Gas's tractiveness as a saleable asset. What it did not do was draw attention to the very real dangers inherent in the sale to some of the poorer sections of society.

Yours etc., DAVID HOBMAN, Director, Age Concern, Bernard Sunley House, 60 Piccadilly Road, Mitcham, Surrey. November 20.

Benefit and inflation

From the Director of the Child Poverty Action Group

Sir, Your argument (leading article, November 15) that benefit recipients must accept a 1 per cent increase next year as a consequence of falling inflation and that, in any case, this will "partly make up for the too large increase in benefit which will take place next week" ignores a number of important factors.

First, next year's 1 per cent increase is not simply the result of falling inflation. As your Economics Correspondent has pointed out (November 14), had benefits been increased in November next year, as normal, claimants could probably have looked forward to a 4 per cent increase. The decision to move the uprating forward to July, while administratively convenient, is not in the financial interests of claimants.

Second, the benefit rise this November is the product of a return to the "historical" uprating method in 1983, which resulted in losses for claimants at the time. This year's "bonus", such as it is, could be said to compensate for that earlier loss. (Child benefit, of course, is falling well behind even the current rate of inflation.)

It should also be remembered that the benefits received today by long-term claimants are considerably lower than they would have been had the previous link with earnings still applied. As you note, for those in work (with the exception of the low-paid) "wages still ride well ahead of prices today".

The reason for linking benefits to earnings when they rose faster than prices was to enable recipients to share in any general increase of living standards. Only recently, the Social Services Secretary stated that "in working for recovery we must ensure that that recovery benefits

the whole nation and not just part of it. Our policies must benefit the poor and the weak as well as the rich and the strong" (October 26).

Ministers are repeatedly assuring us that the recovery is now well under way. If that recovery is to benefit the whole nation, its fruits must not be confined to tax cuts which mainly benefit those whose living standards are already rising.

A general benefit increase in line with average earnings would be one way for the Government to demonstrate its declared commitment to helping "the poor and weak". For what is totally lacking from your leading article is any understanding of how inadequate those benefits are and how bleak are the lives of those who struggle to raise families on them.

November 27, 1985

SPECIAL REPORT

SCOTLAND/1

The power beyond the border

As the Queen today opens the £36m exhibition centre in Glasgow, this report examines the new-found wealth of the country

One of the fascinations of watching Scottish politics is that, just when events seem most predictable, something unexpected happens to turn the situation on its head.

After the last general election, when the Conservatives managed to hang on to their 21 seats in Scotland - Labour had 41, the Alliance eight and the Scottish National Party two - they looked set to rule serenely through their second term as they had through their first.

As Secretary of State, George Younger (Mrs Thatcher's personal in Scotland, as a leader in *The Times* so aptly dubbed him) had used a combination of charm and subtle bullying to preside over Scotland.

He used his weak political position to wring concessions from the Cabinet - such as saving the Ravenscraig steel works - but in truth his authority was never seriously threatened.

The challenge has now come from the least likely source. With the SNP effectively neutered since the 1979 election, and Labour and the unions finding it hard to break the apathy that long familiarity with recession has induced, it was the rank and file of the Tory party that shattered the political calm.

The first issue to surface was rates, particularly the 1985 revaluation of rateable values, which although fiscally neutral overall, threw a heavier burden on domestic and small business ratepayers - among them the Conservatives' most loyal supporters.

Their anger, as they looked at rateable values doubled and even tripled, fell on the rank-and-file Tory workers.

The extraordinary outcry from the party, led by the chairman Sir James Gould, who



George Younger surveys his kind of town, Edinburgh: He has used his political position to wring concessions from the Cabinet

has been extremely vocal and difficult to passify on the issue, has taken everyone including the Labour Party by surprise.

Mr Younger has vainly pointed out that, although rateable values may have increased by much more, the average domestic rates bill has only risen by 17 per cent; the fact that only a third of this rise is the result of the revaluation, the other two thirds being the consequence of increased spending by local authorities; that the revaluation was agreed by all parties and, in fact, could not have got through the Scottish Grand Committee without Labour support.

As we have come to expect from such a consummate politician, Mr Younger used the outcry to his own advantage, wringing from the Treasury £50 million of new money in domestic and small business rate relief, on top of the £57 million he has spent from his own budget.

That, however, failed to mollify his critics in the party.

He received a begrudged standing ovation from half his listeners at the Scottish party conference - it used to be automatic that every government minister received a standing ovation. And, a motion strongly critical of his handling of the affair was passed overwhelmingly.

It now seems likely Mr Younger may be able to use the

BSC's decision to shut the Gartcosh mill sparked a forceful Tory rebellion

unrest to persuade the Cabinet to introduce radical reform of the rating system in Scotland a year or more in advance of England and Wales.

He appears to be planning a Green Paper in the New Year, with a bill to follow in November 1986. Experts favour a poll tax (to be termed a residents charge) to replace all or part of the present property-based rating system.

But rates are not the only worry. There has also been a

forceful rank-and-file Tory rebellion about the British Steel Corporation's decision to close the Gartcosh rolling mill - a move which many feel will undermine the future of Ravenscraig, the large integrated steelworks at Motherwell, which is virtually all that is left of the Scottish steel industry.

These issues have touched off

servatives managed 28 per cent of the vote. By the district council elections a year ago it had fallen to 25 per cent and a recent opinion poll for the *Glasgow Herald* put support at 22 per cent.

By contrast, Labour won 35 per cent of the vote in 1983, had increased that to 45 per cent last year and is now shown as holding that figure. It has consolidated its strength since the last general election and under Donald Dewar, Shadow Secretary for Scotland, has rebuilt its organization since the low point of the mid 1970s.

Labour in Scotland has largely escaped the schisms that have afflicted the party in parts of England. However, at least seven veteran MPs will retire at the next general election so the complexion of its Scottish parliamentary party seems likely to change.

The SNP is also to lose one of its senior figures at the next general election when Donald Stewart retires, after more than 15 years as MP for the Western

Isles. Without his strong personal vote, the party might be hard put to hold the seat - one of only two the nationalists hold.

Although a shadow of its former strength, the SNP has been building slowly at local level and making full use of campaigning issues, like the dispute over ownership of TSB Scotland. The party took five more council seats last year and won control of one district authority.

The SNP has, however, remained in fourth place in its share of popular support, supplanted by the Alliance as the third party in Scotland.

The Alliance, which won eight seats at the general election in 1983 and 38 district council seats last year, had fallen back in the opinion polls to 21 per cent from a general election level of 25. At its Scottish conferences, however, the Alliance was in buoyant mood.

Ray Perman

Walking tall on road to recovery

Why live in Scotland when Scotland has been called a "de-industrialized wasteland"? When the Linwood car factory closed, a taxi driver suggested to me that "she" - no need for further identification of the rider Haggard figure - would like to see all Scotland as a wildlife park.

Yet we have conservation problems. We have other problems, too. Scotland votes Labour (though less wholeheartedly than is suggested by the distortions created by our electoral system) and is governed by Tories. The Nationalists' *plan* of the seventies has spent itself, and it will take more than the huffing and puffing of bellows-to-mend politicians to revive it.

Whisky firms are swallowed up by foreigners, even the great Distillers company may go down the hatch of a supermarket chain (admittedly headed by the son of a Campbelltown grocer). Many a new enterprise folds with ignominious speed; the growth points planted by the Macmillan and Wilson governments have spawned no growth but have withered themselves. Even Silicon Glen sometimes looks like a false promise.

The continuing exodus of talented men and women still seems to bear out Dr Johnson's contention that "the noblest prospect which a Scotchman ever sees is the high road that leads him to England". The editor of *The Times*, the editor of *The Sunday Times* and the director general of the BBC might all agree; so might the bright and pretty girls we see on Breakfast TV: all have flourished since they headed south.

Any Scotsman with a degree of verbal fluency can write his lament, and the temptation to echo McDuff is still powerful: "Stand Scotland where it did? Alas, poor country..." We are very good at bewailing our lot and running down the home team. Often we convince outsiders who take us at our word; sometimes we even convince ourselves. In our hearts, though, we know the truth is different.

There is admittedly a gloomy side. Where is there not? Of course what is called de-industrialization properly worries many, though the phenomenon is in part the result of Scotland's having had one of the highest

levels of investment in the United Kingdom and, as everyone except Labour's prospective chancellor knows, high investment in manufacturing industry means that machines replace men. Yet the level of unemployment is painful.

Nevertheless the dark picture is false. Ten or 15 years ago it was possible to see Glasgow as a dying city. Now it is experiencing a renaissance. The Burrell Collection, which in the decades it lay under wraps while the city fathers dithered seemed a symbol of Glasgow's moribund indifference to all but contemplation of its own decline, was finally displayed at exactly the right psychological moment. "Glasgow's miles better" was the new slogan, and here was this glittering and astonishing museum to prove it.

Writers and film makers suddenly flourished: Alasdair Gray, William McEwan and Bill Forsyth have won international fame, but they are not isolated figures. They are supported by a wave of creative

Glasgow's East End is being revived

energy. Why, it at last became possible to see that, at least in certain lights, when the sun is playing on the surrounding hills, the leafy parks and west end terraces, Glasgow is a staggeringly beautiful city.

The east end too is being revived by a combination of public and private money, and in the old Merchant City behind George Square one of the most imaginative schemes of conservation and development has been launched.

Meanwhile, over the past 10 years, North Sea oil has made Aberdeen and its surrounding country the very model of Thatcherite enterprise. What is most pleasing to those of us who have known and loved that proud and splendid provincial capital and the hard-work farm-land of Dundee and Buchan is that this has been achieved without any loss of the old virtues of the north-east.

And, if Edinburgh still retains its reserve, decorum and suspicious nature, it has nevertheless become the place that

Continued on next page

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SCOTLAND/2

(SPECIAL REPORT)

High road to recovery

Continued from previous page

manages more money than any other European city except London and Zurich. Scotland in the last decade has gone ahead and done things that England is still discussing. We have reformed our licensing laws, and it is now possible to have a drink, a civilized drink moreover, whenever you feel like it. Wine sales are rising fast. Shops open on Sundays if they want to, and civilization hasn't cracked; nor are shop-workers grossly exploited.

By this time next year we will have abolished domestic rates. It is all a mark of the energy and self-confidence that, though we don't like to admit either, makes Scotland a good place to inhabit.

It is significant, too, that Scotland hasn't suffered the riots that have afflicted English cities. Even Scottish football fans have improved their reputation.

We won't win the World Cup, but we won't make fools of ourselves again. On the other hand, I wouldn't bet against Aberdeen carrying off the European Cup.

Despite some moans the new energy hasn't impaired the quality of life in Scotland. We still enjoy incomparable and cheap golf courses. We still have splendid fishing, though it would be better if drift netting was banned off the coast of Northumberland, and much of it is still generally available at a daily rate of a few pounds.

Local pride is strong, and local festivals abound. Scottish skiing can never rival the Alps, if only because the sun doesn't shine in the same way, but every weekend thousands leave the cities for the ski slopes: more than 300,000 ski days were sold last winter.

Best of all Scotland remains a society on an agreeable scale. There is no city you cannot leave in half an hour, nowhere where you are more than a couple of hours from the sea. We retain a rich variety of wild life and vast stretches of unspoiled country. The arts flourish without being exclusive, and there is hardly a town without interesting and pleasing buildings.

There is still a sense that people are connected with each other - it is a less stratified society than England, with more vertical links - and it is very hard to meet a stranger without discovering some common acquaintance or some connection of place within the first quarter hour of conversation. The fact is that Scotland is a civilized place which has never lost touch with what is natural.

I live in beautiful country, with agreeable small towns nearby. I am an hour from Edinburgh and less than two hours from Glasgow. It is a country where every child seems to ride a pony; where there is fine walking, fishing and shooting. I can go racing at Kelso and on winter Saturdays have a choice of six towns within 15 miles where I can watch first division rugby. (Oh yes, we have leagues which they are still debating in England).

True, there is a shortage of cinemas but there are some good restaurants. It is the country of Walter Scott, James Hogg and John Buchan, and they would all recognise it and be happy here today. I count myself lucky. It would be perfect if the late Dr Beeching had not deprived us of our railway. But even in Scotland you can't look for unalloyed good fortune.

Allan Massie

A new edge to beat the ever-growing competition

Recently a group of engineering managers from companies in Scotland's industrial heartland of Lanarkshire were to be seen manning their own collaborative stand at the US National Design and Engineering Exhibition at Chicago. Under a banner *Profit Through Partnership*, they were earnestly promoting their companies - 14 in all - and their capabilities to the US firms surrounding them.

Their visit had been initiated and arranged by their local public sector enterprise agency, LIFE (Lanarkshire Industrial Field Executive), which is funded by councils in the area and the Scottish Development Agency.

LIFE had identified what many of the firms, particularly those lacking an international connection, had missed: that the strength of the dollar gives the UK engineering industry a superb opportunity to pitch for work from their US counterparts. With local labour rates generally lower than in the US, material sourced from within Europe coming more cheaply and lower transport costs, US manufacturers could sub-contract work to the UK on products aimed at the EEC market, thus increasing profitability.

In addition there is a good prospect that the deal will involve a substantial amount of technology transfer giving the Scottish companies an important new edge in meeting ever-growing competition.

"American businesses are increasingly showing an interest in the possibility of entering into a manufacturing agreement with a local partner in this

country in an effort to lower costs and improve margins," says LIFE's aggressive chief executive, Peter Agnew. "We have the requisite skills locally, and it is important that we promote and develop them."

This initiative is only one of a number now spreading throughout Scotland's battered engineering industry, as it climbs painfully back out of four years of havoc, which saw the closure of hundreds of factories and the loss of almost 250,000 jobs.

The campaign within Scotland to introduce new technologies and new principles to manufacturing has developed three distinct thrusts.

The first is to encourage Scotland-based companies to

Firms are adopting computer systems

adopt and develop new production processes, from the use of microprocessors in the factory to the introduction of full-scale computer-automated design manufacturing systems (cad/cam).

Then there is the attraction of technology-based projects in the shape of new products or production techniques.

Thirdly comes the lure of inward investment by technology-based companies whose activities can generate a local market for specialised products and services, and can, in time, lead to spin-offs.

The umbrella of encouragement for this spreading process has been provided by the SDA, which last year commissioned

the Arthur D. Little consultancy to carry out a detailed investigation to be published shortly.

Most of the largest engineering firms that survived the recession, such as Babcock Power, the Weir Group, Motherwell Bridge Engineering and the Howden Group, have in recent years been rapidly adopting the most modern technologies.

For instance, Babcock, formerly one of Europe's leading producers of power station boilers and heavy pressure vessels, has in the past six years carried out massive restructuring.

After a £20 million investment in one of the most modern, computer-controlled machine and assembly shops in Europe, the company's costs were cut by 34 per cent at 1979 prices. At the same time it has been strongly attacking new growth markets, such as defence-related work, fabrication of heavy equipment for the offshore oil market and the British Nuclear Fuels re-equipment programme at Sellafield.

The Howden Group, whose speciality is still designing and manufacturing air treatment and compressed plant, has nevertheless diversified into the development of wind turbine generators, and has sold a number of units to the US. Anderson Strathclyde, the mining equipment manufacturer, recently inaugurated a £6 million flexible manufacturing system at its Motherwell plant, which cuts the costs of machining heavy and complex castings for its coal-cutters by up to 40 per cent.

Motherwell Bridge has moved rapidly into the use of cad/cam systems for the production of its oil and chemical process plant. The Weir Group, in addition to investing in cad/cam, has also developed several technologically sophisticated new products, such as a hydraulic down-hole pump, which is now winning orders from countries including Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union.

These and other initiatives are precisely the kind of commitment to new technology that the SDA wants to see.

But perhaps the SDA's most significant move is its setting up of a small unit to encourage technology transfer into Scotland. The unit searches out, through its own network of contacts, potential licences to manufacture a particular product or use a particular process, and then matches them with the Scottish companies on its books looking for such opportunities.

These activities by the agency go relatively unnoticed outside Scottish business and industry circles. Those of its activities which cause most public inter-

High-tech offers the best hope of survival

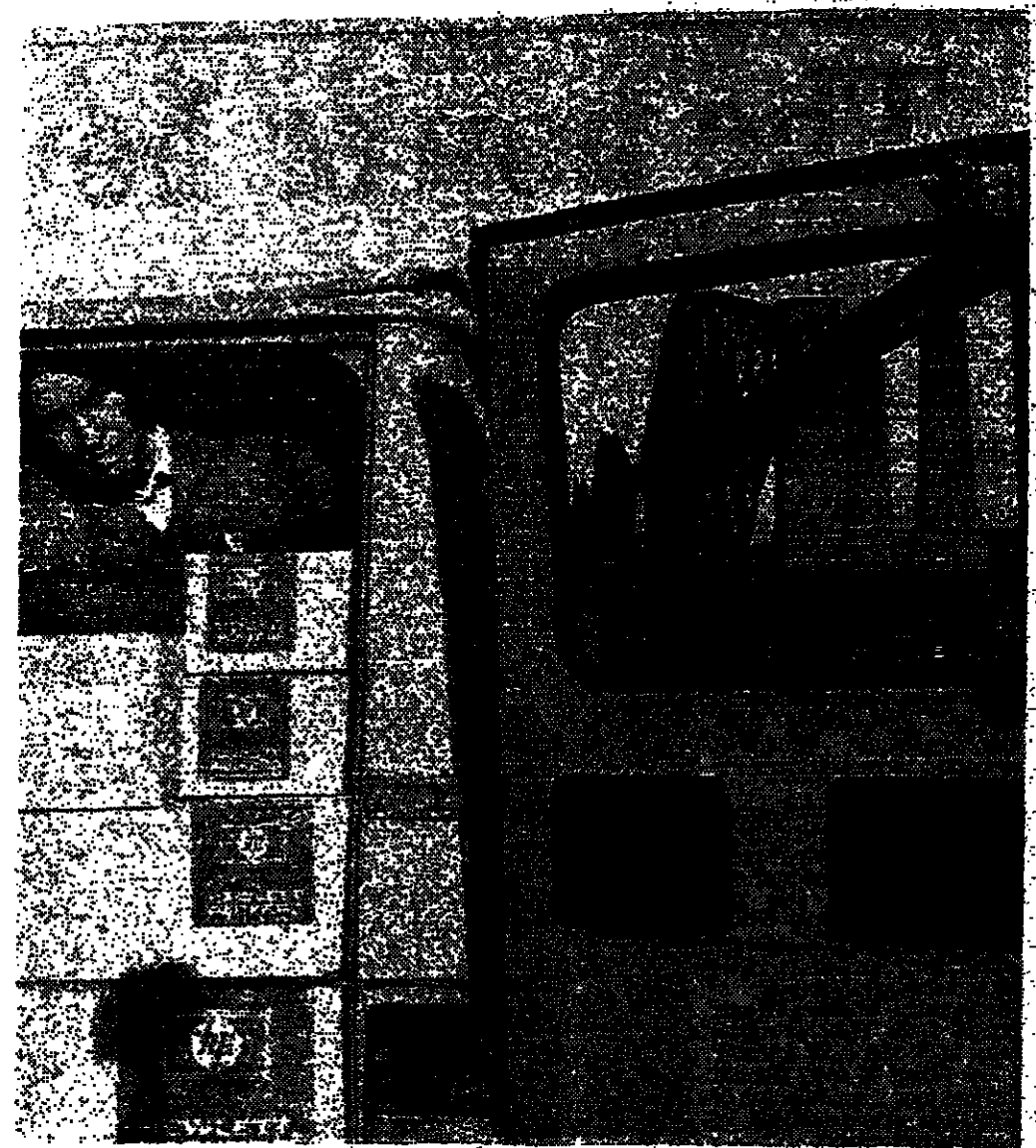
est revolve around the glamorous world of inward investment, which has been naturally concentrated on bringing in more electronics companies to build up the image and substance of Silicon Glen.

Significant new ventures have recently been attracted. At Dundee, on a new technology park being developed by the agency in partnership with Dundee district and Tayside regional councils, the American company, W. L. Gore and Associates, is building the first of four factories involving a total investment of almost £40 million and 900 new jobs.

And, Digital Equipment Company's decision in July to locate a large semiconductor manufacturing facility at South Queensferry, Lothian, was described by Secretary of State for Scotland, George Younger, as "providing opportunities in Scotland, not just for over 400 new employees but also for raw materials suppliers in the construction and equipment industries".

It is this sort of incoming company, with its bright potential for future spin-off projects, combined with the growing pace of technological change in Scotland's more traditional industrial sectors, that offers the best hope of sustaining an export-orientated and profitable manufacturing industry for the rest of this decade.

Alastair Balfour



Traditional Scottish engineering makes way for the new era of information technology

Banks on a firmer footing

What will happen to the Scottish financial centre after the big bang in the City of London? It is a question being addressed north of the border with more curiosity than concern.

"There are still some firms who are covering their eyes and hoping it will go away," says Eddie Ray of consultants Spicer & Peglar, which mounted a seminar on the changes at the instigation of the Scottish Development Agency and has been advising some stockbroking firms individually. "They are going to find it extremely difficult. But most are saying what is it that makes us unique? What can we exploit?"

Scotland has only one broker of national stature, Wood Mackenzie which, since it opened in the City more than a decade ago has developed into a national firm with a substantial Scottish presence, rather than the other way round. It made its attitude to the challenges and freedoms coming to the stock market clear from an early stage, by joining merchant bankers Hill Samuel.

Leaving Woodmac apart Scotland still has the most active broking community outside London. The main danger to its 12 broking firms is the ending of fixed commissions. From next year they will be open to price competition from larger London firms, which can offer economies of scale, and from the likely emergence of discount brokers offering a no-frills cheap trading service to institutions or the more sophisticated private investors.

Institutional business is the most at risk. Scottish unit and investment trusts, pension funds and insurance companies - which together account for about a third of the funds under management in Britain - are big consumers of stockbroking services. They will be looking for the sort of big reductions in dealing commissions which came in the US. In the US it now costs less, even in money terms, to buy or sell big blocks of shares than it did before Wall Street's big bang 10 years ago.

Most Scottish fund managers accept that it is in their interests to keep alive an independent broking community, but not if Scottish prices get widely out of line with those in the south. Scottish brokers will have to become competitive or see a larger proportion of local business go to London.

Those most at risk in this respect are the larger firms, such as the Edinburgh-based Bell, Lawrie, Macgregor, the biggest of the independents, which does a large proportion of its business with institutions.

Two of Bell, Lawrie's rivals, the Glasgow firms of Parsons &

Co. and Campbell Neill, have already decided their futures by accepting approaches from London brokers. House of Fraser has bought 20 per cent of Campbell Neill and will take full control when Stock Exchange regulations change next year. Parsons has joined with James Capel and the Postel pension fund.

In both cases the motivations are the same - to give the London brokers a larger exposure in private client business, whose profitability is likely to hold up better after fixed commissions are abolished, and to give the Scottish brokers access to the research and cheaper volume dealing services which they would have been too small to provide on their own.

The smaller Scottish brokers, reliant almost entirely on private business rather than on work for the institutions, are less likely to be at risk but cannot rest on their laurels.

British Home Stores and John Menzies now offer financial services from their larger shops and the first of the high street share shops are appearing

Banking shows signs of new directions

in major cities (Save & Invest has opened in Glasgow).

The medium-sized London brokers - those to suffer most if the US experience is a guide - are also likely to become more aggressive.

There is little doubt that some form of broking community will survive in Scotland, albeit on a reduced scale.

Few other Scottish institutions, outside broking, have yet taken advantage of the freedoms in relaxed regulations. Although the larger Scottish banks considered buying into brokerages, none did so.

There are, however, signs of new directions. The Royal Bank of Scotland, which completed its merger with Williams & Glyn's on October 1, bought the merchant banking group Charterhouse Japhet earlier this year and earlier this month added a consumer credit operation with the purchase of a majority stake in Style Financial Services.

The purchase of a 39 per cent stake in the Bank of Scotland - the Royal's main rival - by the Standard Life insurance company is also likely to lead to new joint initiatives between the two companies.

But Scottish companies can make a virtue of their size and continued independence. Angus Grossart, managing director of the highly successful Edinburgh merchant bank, Noble Grossart, is the leading exponent of this view, arguing that there are

opportunities for Scotland to develop specialist services.

The building of financial conglomerates, he maintains, will inevitably lead to conflicts of interest, and to a loss of expertise in being able to handle anything unusual. Independent financial institutions may miss out on the business that, say, a bank gives to its in-house broker, but will make new contacts with third parties who do not want to shop for all their needs in one financial super-market.

This is precisely the sort of expertise that Scottish fund managers are seeking to sell in the US.

Edinburgh Fund Managers, one of the two quoted Scottish fund management groups, achieved a hefty profits rise from £2.46 million to £3.5 million before tax during the past year. Ivory & Sims, the other public company in the sector, also pushed up its earnings, from £1.7 million to £2.1 million. It is likely that several of its competitors, which are partnerships and therefore do not disclose their figures, have fared in similar fashion on the strength of the bull markets in London and the Far East last year.

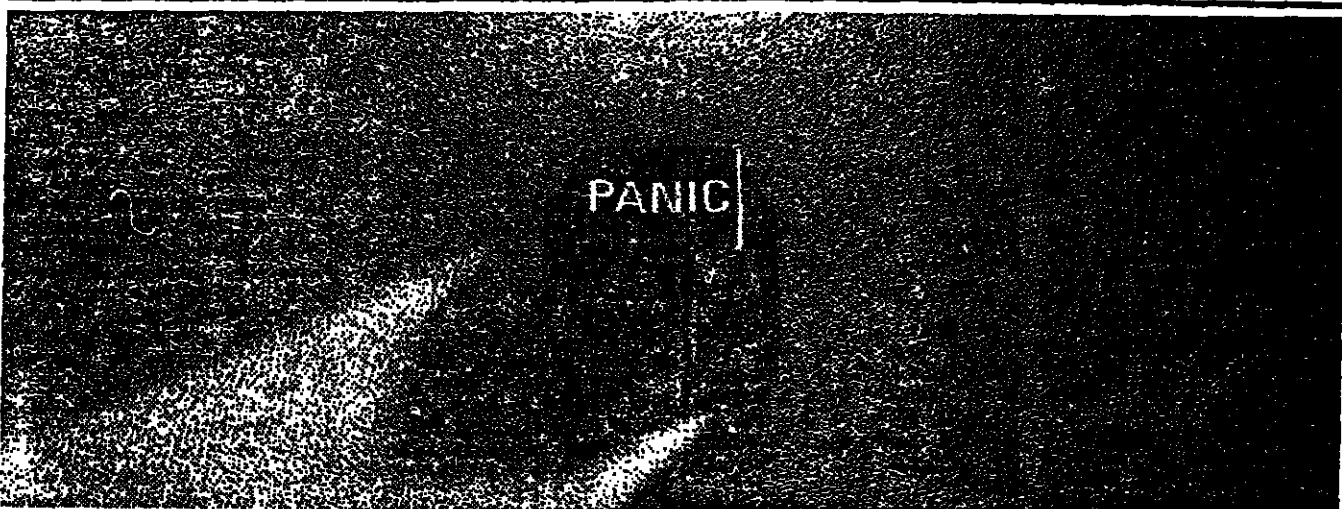
Figures for the banks show that they have had a strong year. The newcomer to Scottish clearing banking, the TSB, has made a strong entry. Far from being a junior partner, TSB Scotland has been leading the TSB Group, both in the way it has started reorganizing its management and operations ready for the flotation next year (now delayed because of the legal problems over its ownership) and in its profits performance (up 46 per cent to £32.6 million last year).

The four regional Scottish TSBs were a year in front of their counterparts in England and Wales in merging into a single bank and pulled off a notable coup in securing Iain MacDonald, former main board director of the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank, to be its chief general manager.

He is steering the TSB into some new areas, such as corporate lending and money market dealing, and has persuaded the union to accept Saturday and Sunday opening. And it has passed Clydesdale, the Midland Group's Scottish subsidiary, in terms of profits, despite Clydesdale's recently announced 33 per cent rise from £18.1 million to £24.2 million.

Bank of Scotland also pushed its pre-tax profit up to a record £80.4 million in the year to February 28, 34 per cent up on the previous period and announced a £81.3 million rights issue at the same time.

RP



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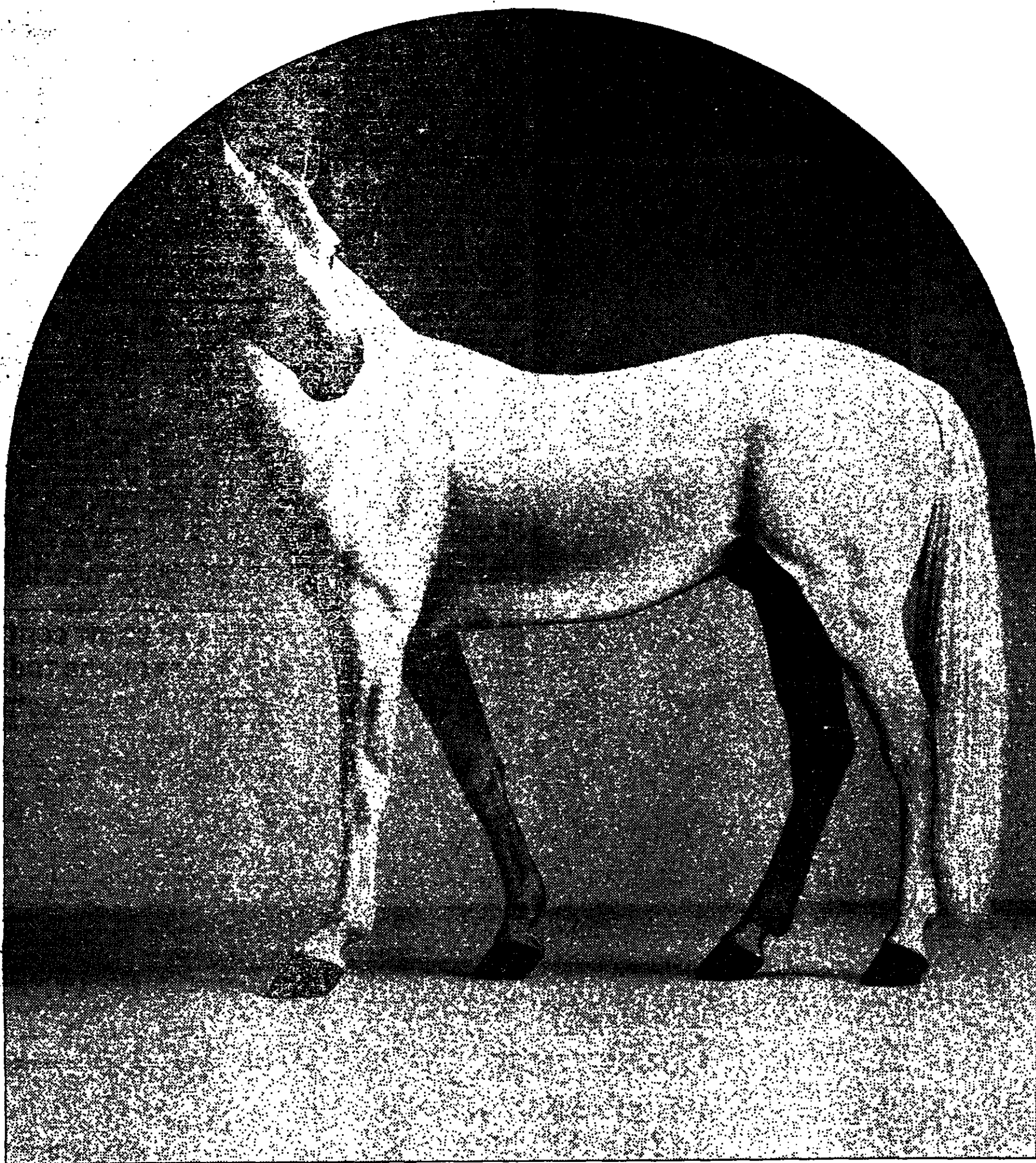
CATCH UP ON SCOTLAND

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Haig-John

DISTILLERS

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Haig • Johnnie Walker Red Label • Johnnie Walker Black Label • Lagavulin • McCallum's De Luxe • Mackie's • Old Parr • Slater & Scott Grassy Green • Talisker • Usher's Green Stripe • Vat 69 • Ye Monks
Booth's • Gordon's • High & Dry • Tanqueray
Cossack Vodka • Hine Cognac • Pimm's • Crabbie's Green Ginger Wine

(these are just some of our leading international brands)

INESS

COTLAND

SCOTLAND/3

(SPECIAL REPORT)

A new boost for new business

"The emphasis remains on stimulating the commercial development and application of advances in technology."

"Synergy through partnerships bringing together energy, creativity and the resources of money and talented people remains a policy, intention and aim."

"We continue to seek ways of exploiting the potential that exists in the economy."

Now which sort of organization might carry comments such as these in its annual report? A merchant bank, perhaps? An oil company? A venture capital trust?

The answer is none of these. The quotations come from the last annual report of the Scottish Development Agency, a body which next month celebrates its tenth anniversary, and which with every passing year assumes more of the characteristics of a hard-headed commercial company.

Consider the following facts. Companies seeking investment in Scotland now tend to look to the SDA, first rather than last, because their advisors will tell them that the agency will drive a harder bargain than the established banking and finance sector. In 1983/4 the private sector invested £4.30 in new company funding for every £1 put in by the agency, a ratio that has been rising steadily. In that same year the agency secured a gross return from its portfolio of £33 million, invested in 791 companies, of 10.5 per cent.

Hardly the conventional picture of a state-owned bureaucracy, charged by its

It presents a shiny new technological face

political masters with the weighty and near-impossible task of regenerating the Scottish economy. For the SDA is fast gaining a reputation for entrepreneurial, single-minded pursuit of these goals which transcends the boundaries of its operational area.

The best measure of SDA success is to consider Scotland's industrial image as perceived in London, or overseas. From a picture of undoubted economic and employment devastation wrought throughout the late 1970s and early 1980s, when at times Scotland seemed to be carrying the brunt of recession alone, the country now presents a shiny new technological face to the outside world.

Statistics such as the fact that 80 per cent of the UK's semiconductors, and 50 per cent of its personal computers are made in "Silicon Glen" have become familiar through constant repetition. Scotland is seen as a hive of investment by US and Japanese electronics companies, while its offshore oil industry is spreading out.

No matter how many Scots might fail to recognize these images of the country where they live, and some work (unemployment is currently an overall 16 per cent), this is nevertheless the message that the SDA's publicity machine pumps out.

In adopting this role of technological publicist, the SDA has thus adroitly separated itself from the problems of the still-declining heavy industries. If a

threat surfaces to a steelworks, or an engineering factory, then the agency no longer rushes in to try to rescue the lame duck.

Instead, it leaves the hand-wringing to government ministers and the trade unions, while quietly working away in the background on initiatives to bring new economic life to the area if the worst happens.

It is not stretching the facts too far to say that the agency is today the single most influential factor in the progress and health of the Scottish economy. During the recession it was notable that Scotland managed to climb away (perhaps by sliding less rapidly than other regions) from its traditional place at the bottom of the UK regional economic table. Today it occupies a place midway in the table, equivalent to the West Midlands.

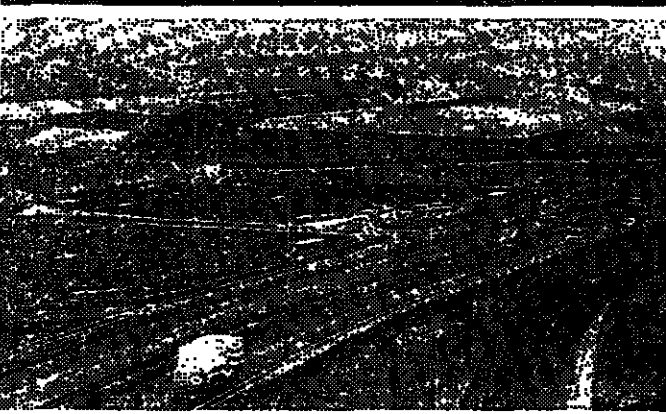
How such a transformation has been wrought bears investigation. The agency, with 15 offices throughout Scotland from Aberdeen to Galashiels and five more in the US and Europe, employs 730 staff with an annual budget of £85 million from the Scottish Office. With those resources it covers a wide spectrum of activity throughout Scotland, with the sole exception of the Highlands and Islands area, which has its own development board based in Inverness. From attracting inward investment through Locate in Scotland, its joint operation with the Scottish Office, the SDA also handles major area redevelopment programmes — such as the £500 million rebuilding of Glasgow's depressed East End in a ten year programme in partnership with local authorities.

Recent one-off schemes initiated by the agency include a total restructuring of Glasgow city centre, to raise its prestige and attraction; the £36 million Scottish exhibition centre, which opened in September on a Clydeside site in Glasgow; and a project to build an optoelectronic research and development centre, partly funded by Scotland's leading laser companies, including Ferranti and Barr and Stroud.

Why such a public sector body should have developed a private-sector-like ability to pick up on innovative concepts and make them work in due largely to the lead given by the agency's impressive chief executive, Dr George Mathewson. A former director with the industrial finance group 3i, in London, he took over the SDA's reins four and a half years ago, and has clearly emerged as one of the leading Scots managers of the 1980s.

Mr Mathewson's achievement has been to create an environment within which initiative and enterprise can flourish. The Scottish Development Agency is by no means perfect, however. Many businessmen who deal with one or more of its tentacles still complain fiercely about slow decision-taking, particularly on investments, and a somewhat ponderous approach to run-of-the-mill problems. Yet the same could be said of most organizations of a similar size, no matter their entrepreneurial reputation.

AB



Scottish scenes (from top):
● The imaginative artistry of the Burrell collection for decades hidden under lock and key in various dark corners of Glasgow
● The charm of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's restored Willow tea rooms
● The great white hope of Scotland, the £36 million Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre opened by the Queen today in the heart of Glasgow's depressed docklands
● The optimism of the people, who believe in blowing their own trumpets at the new centre

Whisky searches for a younger image

Scotch whisky earned £931 million in exports for Britain last year. The gentle alchemy of the Scottish Highlands and delicate balance between pure water, peat, barley, malt and time was among the nation's biggest revenue earners, hardly reflecting hard times.

Whisky is not, in the phrase beloved of the headline writers, on the rocks but it has suffered from a serious case of miscalculation, the sobering effects of recession and severe competition from other spirits.

Distillers (DCL) has stopped production at 10 of its 34 malt distilleries, losing 180 of the 900 jobs in the division. Most are in Speyside and the grain-rich north-east of Scotland. DCL has also axed 715 jobs with the closure of the VAT 69 and White Horse blending and bottling plants in Glasgow and South Queensferry, near Edinburgh.

Total employment in the industry has dropped from around 25,000 at its peak five years ago to 17,000 this year. In spite of this gloomy record Scotch whisky remains the largest single category of spirit drink in international trade. Sales have declined in the home market and the feeling within the industry is that whisky perhaps suffers from a rather stuffy, tweed and peat image. Not so on the Continent where the French in particular apparently regard it as a drink with a very stylish image.

The distilling sector working party of the National Economic Development Office proposed strategic action to remedy the position when it last analysed the industry. Among the recommendations was an insistence that European Community rights should be enforced more vigorously on practices that discriminate against whisky.

The Council of Ministers should also be urged to adopt community legislation that precisely defines whisky and Scotch whisky together with a minimum strength of 40 per cent volume for all whiskies. In the home market the working party said the spirits tax should be adjusted to a more realistic relationship with other alcoholic drinks and the excessive stocks of maturing whisky should be further cut.

The report was the strongest argument in support of the industry but the working party was railing against some powerful interests in Europe busily defending their own drinks against the growing compe-

A cornucopia of treasures

The old Scots attitude towards tourism is neatly summed up in the saga of the Burrell Collection. For decades this priceless, immensely varied cornucopia of art lay under lock and key in various dark depositories around Glasgow. When it was brought into the light and assembled in a brilliantly imaginative gallery on the outskirts of the city, it quickly became the country's number one visitor attraction, overtaking Edinburgh Castle in popularity and seen last year by 1.1 million people.

According to Alan Devereux, chairman of the Scottish Tourist Board, Scotland has a host of lesser Burrells hidden away that could be developed to boost tourism, which directly and indirectly earned £1,300 million last year and provided work for 100,000 people, far outstripping banking, electronics, coal-mining and shipbuilding, and equalling North Sea oil.

Mr Devereux is a man of energy and some eccentricity in his keenness to promote Scottish tourism. He believes that most Scottish towns could unearth a ghost piece of history or a vivid historical feature and turn it to profit. "Wherever I go I stumble across fascinating stories and legends associated with particular places," he said. "There can be few countries in Europe that had such a concentration of merchant adventurers, who brought back material from all over the world, or had such a varied and violent history. It's all there hidden away."

Mr Devereux advocates that towns should present their best features to visitors through heritage or nature trail and with

such small steps taken by the 30 Scottish area tourist boards linked to a large-scale sales drive, the STB hopes to add an extra £50 million to tourism earnings "hard selling" Scotland to 37 million potential customers.

Edinburgh, with its international festival, was a honey-pot, but now Glasgow and the whole of the rest of Scotland is perceived as a tourist destination.

The Fraser of Allander Institute, that Scottish economic watchdog at Strathclyde University, Glasgow, has announced that it is sceptical about the STB's hopes of doubling the number of foreign visitors to Scotland over the

next five years, adding £250 million in foreign exchange and generating more than 25,000 new jobs. The institute pointed out that only a tiny proportion of overseas tourists to Britain — less than 10 per cent in fact — penetrate beyond London.

Scotland's overseas market was constrained by a small promotional budget and the received wisdom of Whitehall pointed to London as the essential gateway to Britain. Attempts to achieve a regional spread of overseas visitors were regarded as an attempt to undersell London overseas, the institute reported.

Mr Devereux ruefully admits that about 85 per cent of visitors to Scotland come from

within Britain. They generally spend rather less than visitors from overseas and drive around in their own transport. The overseas market could surely have been doubled, he said, when the dollar was riding so strongly against the pound and so many Americans and Canadians were keen to come over to dig into their roots.

Also, Scotland was popular with people from hot, bland climates who actually rejoiced in a spell of cool mist or an outright central-belt downpour.

"If the Swiss can do it with their climate, so can we," said Mr Devereux. "Although they do have the advantage of high quality, high-earning hotels and

Scotland is popular with people from hot, bland climates

a tour season that spreads throughout the year."

Tourist development in the north of Scotland is a part of the Highlands and Islands Development Board's work. They have recently committed £100,000 to staff and management training for the industry and are concentrating more on improving the quality of service offered. They accept that as the list lengths of countries aware of the economic benefits from tourism, so do the standards required increase.

"It has not been good enough," Mr Devereux declared and his tone summoned up a vision of damp beds, downy hoteliers, cold food and corked wine all set, of course, in superb scenery.

The image does not do justice to the development that has taken place during the last three years when more than £50 million has been spent on building new hotels and refurbishing old ones. Typical has been the investment of £12 million by the Glenelg group which has brought the Caledonian and North British former railway hotels, at either end of Prince's Street, Edinburgh, to a very high standard of comfort. Glenelg Hotel itself, in Perthshire, has also been renovated and is a £15.5 million country club and leisure complex added. In the central belt, Strator Holiday Inns, Trust House and others are among the main hotel chains to invest some of their millions.

A new conference and convention centre, costing £36 million opened in September in Glasgow is aiming to attract business from home and overseas. The Scottish Tourist Board also has high hopes for the Glasgow Garden Festival as a repeat of the Liverpool experience which so improved that city. "In Liverpool there could go no further in Glasgow there is the whole of Scotland beyond," Mr Devereux said.

And what will visitors find? Hills to walk on, forests to stalk in, a superb coastline to sail along, collections of stately homes and gatherings of clans, the greatest concentration of golf courses in the world, a history expressed in fine castles and the bloodiest battles, the most famous monster in the world and last and absolutely least, the ubiquitous Scottish midge.

Ronald Faux

Inside the show centre the Queen opens today

bookings for the next few years, above their expectations.

The centre was built on the 64-acre Queen's Dock site, once the heart of a thriving port. By the time building work started, ships had long since ceased to call, sheds and warehouses had fallen into decay and the area was a derelict eyesore, but it has now been given new life.

It occupies 210,000 sq ft. Hall one, the main conference auditorium, is carpeted, air-conditioned and sound-proofed and can be blacked out for special lighting effects or film or video presentations.

Hall two, which is linked to the first hall, is intended for reception and registration of major conferences, although it could be used separately.

The third hall, for exhibitions, has a complete under-floor service system, which can

bring water, electricity, telephone, television and — if necessary — compressed air to individual stands.

Within the centre there is parking for 3,500 cars, buses and commercial vehicles in seven car parks. And it is situated close to a suburban railway station, linking it with the city by minutes.

Yet the very level of facilities make the centre a risk venture. To be successful it will have to attract not merely the type of show already held in Scotland, but major national and international events larger and more prestigious than those hitherto seen north of the border.

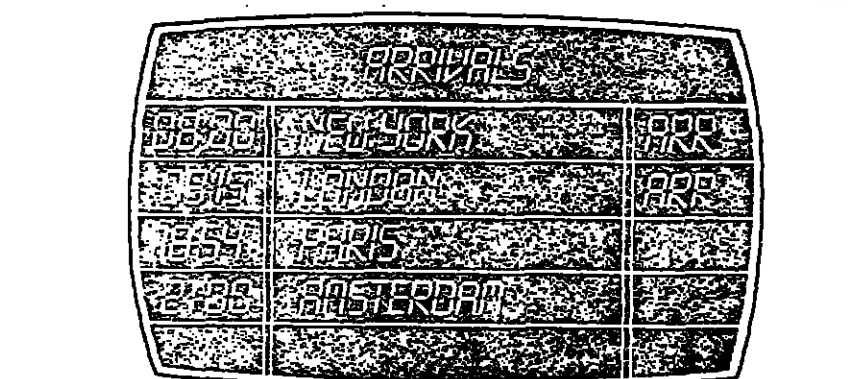
"Now that we can offer such a splendid facility at competitive rates, we are impressing upon organizers that we are looking to hold not just regional shows, but totally new shows to

Scotland," says Chris Garrett, the centre's chief executive.

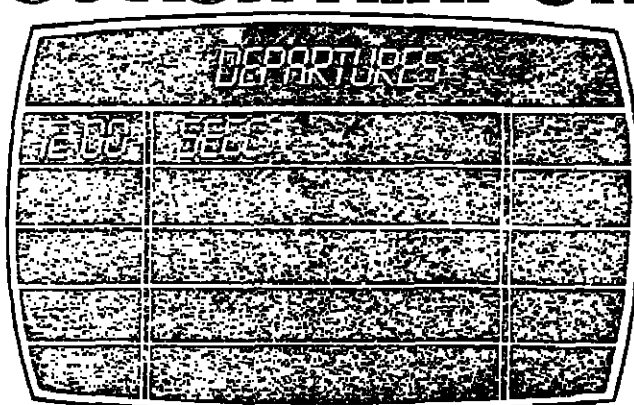
The centre has not been without controversy. Managers of existing conferences and exhibition venues are concerned that it will damage their viability by attracting away smaller events and there has been some disquiet in Aberdeen at suggestions that the huge Offshore Europe Exhibition, the oil industry's main European meeting place, held in the city each autumn, should move to the centre.

But one long running argument has been settled recently. A dispute between the centre's planners and Glasgow hoteliers over a proposal to build a new hotel alongside the centre has been resolved.

Mr Garrett hopes that within the next six months a financial package can be put together which will enable a hotel to be built in time for the May 1988 Garden Festival being held at Princes' Dock, immediately across the Clyde from the exhibition centre.



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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Hambro chooses Sterling silver not fool's gold

In a recent paper, Win Bischoff, who is responsible for guiding the fortunes of Schroder Wagg, suggested that merchant banks have three options in the present phase of rapid change: to become a global investment bank; an independent securities house; or a niche player. The third option implies a strategy of going downmarket and specializing in certain financial services. With its offer for the estate agent Bairstow Eves, Hambros is taking the third option.

This is surely sensible. Hambros, which is still effectively family-owned (49 per cent) and intent on remaining so, is a star that has shone faintly for more than a decade. The top management echelon has been reshuffled from time to time without coming up trumps. Most recently, Rupert Hambro, whose branch of the family has most shares, stepped elegantly sideways and Charles Hambro re-emerged from behind a pillar. Beneath him, Hambros' success depends mainly on the wit, energy and, of course, connections of Christopher Spörborg and "Chips" Keswick.

These connections include Sir Jeffrey Sterling, who masterminded the saving of P&O and its subsequent merger with Sterling Guarantee (or SGT, or even earlier, Town & City). SGT's underwriting of Hambros' offer for Bairstow Eves is a neat manoeuvre. SGT, and therefore P&O, is unlikely to become a significant shareholder in Hambros via the underwriting.

But the exchange of an underwriting commission for share warrants should lead to a decent profit and the sort of shareholder (less than 2 per cent) that will endear Hambros to P&O and cement the relationship between the two senior managements.

Although situations can change overnight in the City, there is no present intention of moving forward from here except in the general direction of fruitful business deals that might come up. The arrangement nonetheless is a feather in P&O's cap, as the rise to 445p in the share price demonstrated. P&O essentially is a service group, with property and a bank and some highly numerate directors. Financial services are nothing new to them.

For Hambros, which cannot hope to compete with the international financial conglomerates in wholesale market-making, there are rich pickings in retail financial services. Hambros has the extra advantage of its name which is still familiar with the public even after the sale last year of Allied Hambro (now Allied Dunbar) the United Kingdom's largest unit linked life office and the work of Mark Weinberg.

Bairstow Eves' chain of 140 outlets provides Hambro with a ready-made entry into the high street. The bank plans to offer mortgages marketed through these

offices, expecting to lend an initial £100 million. As a potentially lucrative spin-off Hambro plans to be an early participant in a secondary mortgage market if and when one emerges in this country, and the packaging of its own and other institutions mortgages into securities.

Bairstow Eves branches will also provide an outlet for the insurance services marketed by Hambros' insurance broking and legal fees subsidiaries.

With the inclusion of Bairstow Eves into the group means that the retail financial services side of Hambros' business now easily predominates, with a probable market value in excess of £200 million. Details in column 4

Dissenters from Kaufman's gospel

More dollar weakness was the dominant theme in foreign exchange markets yesterday, as the US currency slumped yet again. Against the mark, the dollar was down to just below 255 and against the pound to about \$1.48. The dollar was relatively calm against the yen at around yen 200, but this stability did little to calm the nerves of anxious foreign exchange dealers.

In broad terms, it looks very much as if markets are still looking for a cut in the Federal Reserve Discount Rate, in order to stimulate the flagging US economy. This is the received line in current market psychology, finding explicit confirmation in the recent pronouncements of Dr Kaufman of Salomon Brothers, who forecasts a cut before Christmas. Yesterday's US economic data appeared to confirm the prevailing theology. US durable goods orders in October dropped 2.1 per cent, rather than posting the slight rise which most Wall Street economists had expected. More cuts and more dollar weakness to help US corporate bodies appear to follow quite automatically.

It is possible to find agnostics in the pack. Breaking the durable goods orders for October down into defence and non-defence produces the usual ambiguous picture of the US economy.

Non-defence orders were unchanged, while the defence component was down 26 per cent on September.

For the British monetary authorities, the Fed's vacillations over the conduct of domestic monetary policy may count for less than its impact on the foreign exchange markets, especially since today is pay day, when the traders in London must decide whether to stage the new pay stock, Exchequer, Convertible, 10½ per cent 1989.

Late last night, sterling was heading towards \$1.48 and gills at the long end suddenly spurred ½ point. This may be a tap the authorities really want to sell.

Wind in Allied's sails

Sir Derrick Holden-Brown is a nautical man. As well as chairman and chief executive of Allied-Lyons, at present under siege from the aggressive Australian concern Elders DXL, he sails a 10-ton sloop.

He said: "We have the wind on the beam", which roughly translated means that the Allied-Lyons group is travelling as fast as it can go. Elders, in contrast, is sailing very close to the wind, which in landlubber language means that John Elliott's ambitious bid for the brewing to food concern might well collapse, shortly in abject confusion.

This may or may not be the view from the Allied bridge, but it certainly formed the main theme among brewing analysts, who to a man were surprised but gratified by results from Allied, covering the six months, up to September 14.

Pretax profits have risen from £11.8 million to £122.6 million, a gain of 21.6 per cent; beer profits have grown by a fifth to £65.3 million, and earnings per share have improved by 27.3 per cent. Shareholders have little reason to complain about the way in which they have been invited to join the fiesta. The dividend goes up by a quarter from 2.6p to 3.25p.

Last night the Elders camp refused to trade an inch. To the Allied claims that trading margins had risen from 6.6 per cent to 7.2 per cent, reflecting productivity and efficiency gains, the Elders pirates retorted that a sales gain in the group of just 7 per cent hardly pointed to any

volume growth. Much as expected was the general line of reply.

The Allied defence is likely to concentrate on the solid worth of the group, unrecognized so far by the stock market. The defence document which is due out next week will echo the comments of analysts who last night claimed that even valuing Allied on a conservative rating, the shares ought to be worth around 350p.

Putting the record straight should be one gambit, while questioning the Elders' ability to raise the scratch to pay for the present bid, let alone an increased offer, may well be another defensive ploy. At last night's closing price of 290p, for Allied, the stock market is plainly not placing too much reliance on a hopeful outcome to the Elders' cash offer 255p a share.

Yet these are early days. The Elders' offer is only a sighting shot. It is quite capable of coming back with an improved offer worth perhaps 350p. Who knows? Elders did not launch its offer only to concede almost immediately.

The strength of the Allied profits performance and its subsequent projections immediately increase the target rating of the group, granted that virtually no rating premium appears to be in the current share price. The capital uplift implicit in this exercise puts corresponding strain on the Elders' break-up calculations for the group, and hence in turn on the loyalty of the banking consortium supporting Mr Elliott. The banks may just refuse to put up enough money for Elders to take Allied out.

Trust sells £25m stake

By Laurence Lever

British Empire Securities and General Trust yesterday disposed of its 9.07 per cent stake in its rumoured bid target, The Scottish Investment Trust, for £25.08 million, making a profit of approximately £5 million on the sale.

The disposal of the SIT holding dwarfed an increase of more than 60 per cent in BES's pre-tax profits for the year ending September 30, announced yesterday, which rose from £324,000 to £330,000.

The sale of the SIT shares was achieved via a put-through in the market at 330p a share, representing a premium of 8.1 per cent on the SIT share price at the time of the put-through. James Capel was believed to have acted for the buyer, whose identity has not yet been disclosed.

£1.5m deal for broker

By Our City Staff

Hill Woolgar, the investment group, completed its deal to take over a stockbroker when it announced plans to buy Spencer Thornton for £1.5 million once Stock Exchange rules permit next April.

At the same time, Mr Stuart Goldsmith, Hill Woolgar's new guiding light, said that the company's name would be changed to Fredericks Place Group.

Spencer Thornton has 4,000 clients to add to Hill Woolgar's 1,500. The brokers have £300 million under advisory management.

As significant as the deal itself is that it is being largely funded through a placing of £3 million worth of Hill Woolgar shares to Murray Growth, the recently-acquired offshoot of the Merchant Navy Pension Fund.

Judge rejects Hanson attempt to block SCM assets sale

By Mike Graham in New York and Jeremy Warner in London

Hanson Trust's three-month-old battle for control of SCM Corporation, the New York typewriter to chemicals conglomerate, suffered a new setback yesterday when a New York federal district court ruled against legal moves to resolve the deadlock.

Sir Gordon White, head of Hanson's United States operation, said Hanson would appeal.

Hanson's \$930 million bid for SCM has become one of the most bitter corporate battles ever fought on either side of the Atlantic, and has led to protracted and acrimonious litigation.

The issue before the court was whether SCM's board was justified in giving a "lock-up" option to Merrill Lynch, the New York investment bank which is supporting a proposed

management buyout of the company.

This option allows Merrill Lynch to buy SCM's two most valuable assets at favourable prices should Hanson acquire more than a third of the company's shares.

The court yesterday turned down a request by Hanson for an injunction preventing SCM from selling these two businesses to Merrill Lynch.

Judge Shirley Kram said Hanson had not proved that the actions of SCM's board of directors were taken out of self-interest. She said it seemed the board had acted in the best interests of shareholders. Hanson had contended that the board breached its fiduciary duties to shareholders by agreeing to the option and thereby effectively ending the bidding process.

The judge's decision caused considerable surprise in both London and New York, since in a similar action brought in Delaware last month, the courts decided that the board of Revlon had breached its duty to shareholders by granting a "lock-up" option to a buyout consortium which included some of Revlon's senior executives.

Judge Kram said that the Revlon case was not applicable to Hanson and SCM. Lock-up options were not improper per se and they had frequently been used and upheld by the courts.

SCM had deployed reasonable measures as part of a viable business strategy within the law and Hanson had failed to supply sufficient credible proof to the contrary, Judge Kram said.

Both parties had agreed that there would be a 48-hour period of grace after judgement. New

York legal sources said last night that the chances of a successful appeal against the decision were extremely slim.

However, there are other courses of action open to Hanson, such as fighting a proxy battle at next month's annual meeting of SCM.

Hanson is on record as saying that if Merrill Lynch is permitted to exercise its "crown jewels" option, it would be "unable to offer a price to SCM's shareholders which tops the price offered" by the management buyout bid thus causing Hanson "to withdraw its own tender offer". This offer is worth \$75 a share.

Sir Gordon said: "We are confident that the courts ultimately will recognize that lock-ups are contrary to stockholders' interests and serve only to shelter an entrenched management."

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Neill raises Spear bid to £14.7m

By Our City Staff

James Neill Holdings, the hand tool manufacturer, has increased its offer for Spear & Jackson to £14.7 million from £13.2 million and declared its final offer. Spear & Jackson immediately rejected the increased offer.

It also emerged yesterday that the Takeover Panel had criticized Spear & Jackson over statements made in an earlier document. They were that Neill had tried unsuccessfully to sell its spanner division; that half its shareholders' funds were at risk; and that Neill itself faced problems that threatened its very existence. The panel said the statements had not been satisfactorily corroborated and should not have been made.

Neill's increased offer was also accompanied by a forecast of a 47 per cent increase in total dividends in the year to December 31. The share offer was raised from three Neill shares for two Spear to five for three. The cash alternative went up to 250p from 195p.

The war of words broke out again after Neill showed its hand. Spear's managing director, Mr Leonard Grosbard, disputed Neill's claim of an exit multiple 13.2 times Spear's forecast earnings for the 15 months to end March, 1986.

He also disputed Neill's claim that its offer represented a 62 per cent increase in income over the annualized rate of Spear's forecast dividend. He said the true figure was a 29.6 per cent increase in the year to December 31. The share offer was intended to be a base for a 12-month period.

Mr Grosbard also said: "We shall shortly be able to demonstrate good reason why Spear shareholders should not accept the cash bid."

Spear & Jackson shares were unchanged at 256p and Neill shares eased 7p to 157p.

Apricot plunges to £4.6m interim loss

By Alison Eadie

Apricot Computers, one of Britain's fastest growing computer manufacturers, plunged into losses of £4.6 million before tax to September 30. Last year it made interim profits of £3.8 million and full-year taxable profits of £10.6 million.

The loss, caused mainly by stock provisions, is the company's first downturn in 12 years.

The reasons were a combination of over-ambition and the sharply falling growth rate in the computer market worldwide, according to Mr Roger Foster, the chief executive.

The company has taken decisive action and cut its overheads by 20 per cent, mainly by shedding labour.

The decline in trading profit to £2.1 million from £3.8 million was mainly due to the £1.5 million loss made by French and German subsidiaries. The German subsidiary is being closed at a cost of £1 million below the line.

The joint retailing venture with Tandy Corporation, AT ComputerWorld, made a loss of around £38,000. The 33 outlets are expected to break even by the first quarter of next year.

The bulk of the losses came in the form of an exceptional £5.9 million stock provision, of which £5.1 million related to



Roger Foster: blamed ambition and falling growth

the portable computer, whose production is being discontinued. Portable computers have been unsuccessful for the industry as a whole, the company said.

Apricot is now concentrating on chasing margin not turnover. Mr Lindsay Bury, the chairman, said it has withdrawn from the volume end of the business in the US and is trying to increase the price and value-added content of its products worldwide. The latest ZEN computer sells for £3,500, the highest priced Apricot product ever.

Apricot's share price rose 5p to 64p against a high for the year at 290p.

Rothmans profits fall by £25.6m

By Ian Griffiths

Falling beer and tobacco volumes sent pretax profits tumbling at Rothmans International as the group reported a fall at £58.8 million from £84.4 million in the six months to September 30.

The directors pinpointed Carling O'Keefe, the Canadian brewing business as a significant source of the decline. Volumes there fell substantially hurting profitability.

The business also suffered from disputes in the Canadian brewing industry and profits were further hit by the cost of new packaging for the company's brands.

The tobacco business also had problems. Agreed volumes were lower than in the same period a year ago. Although progress was made in some markets this was more than offset by the impact of currency translation resulting from a strong pound.

Overall, Rothmans' sales fell from £779.1 million to £744.8 million.

One of the bright spots was the performance of its luxury consumer products activities.

However, there are still problems elsewhere and Rothmans has incurred £7 million by way of rationalization costs

Rosehaugh Greycoat to raise £40m

By Judith Hambley, Commercial Property Correspondent

Rosehaugh Greycoat Estates is raising £40 million in a debenture issue secured on its £45,000 sq ft development at Finsbury Avenue on the edge of the City of London.

The money, repayable over 29 years will be used to repay short-term loans for the development of the first two phases, valued at £80 million.

The office produces an annual income of £5 million, more than covering the £4.4 million

cost of the debenture issue, which has an 11 per cent coupon and is 0.65 per cent above 13½ per cent Treasury stock 2004/08.

The deal, reminiscent of the 1960s property boom, covers its costs and allows both Rosehaugh and Greycoat to retain their equity in the scheme, their ambition from the outset.

Phase three of Finsbury Avenue is now being financed. It will cost £20 million and have

73,000 sq ft of space.

The debenture issue, underwritten by S G Warburg, the merchant bank allows Rosehaugh Greycoat Estates the right to issue further stock without guarantees and without another valuation of the property, which is highly reversionary.

This unusual arrangement gives both companies off-balance sheet finance which helps their gearing position.

Bairstow accepts £78m bid from Hambros Bank

By Our Commercial Property Correspondent

Bairstow Eves, the residential estate agent and Hambros Bank, the merchant bank have agreed merger terms in a cash and shares offer which values Bairstow at about £78 million.

Hambros Bank will acquire up to 80 per cent of Bairstow's share capital with the estate agents' directors and some employees forming a management group which will retain 20 per cent of the equity.

The terms of the merger are first Hambros shares at £4.30 cash for nine Bairstow shares, valuing the offer at 151.6p per share. Hambros will issue 22.49 million new voting shares worth £42 million and pay £19.34 million in cash. The new shares will be 16.9 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

Sterling Guarantee Trust, part of Sir Jeffrey Sterling's Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, is under-

writing the issues. It is offering to pay shareholders cash for all their shares.

It will buy Hambros voting shares at 175p to which Bairstow shareholders are entitled and which they do not want to keep. The offer is equal to 145p cash per share. Sterling Guarantee has waived its commission on the issue in lieu of an option to buy three million Hambros voting shares at £2 a share.

Once the merger is through Mr John Bairstow, the present chairman of the estate agency and Mr John Pooley, an independent director, will retire.

Hambros turned in encouraging half-year results to September 30, 1985, with foreign exchange and corporate finance doing well. The interim dividend on voting shares will rise from 2p to 2.2p per share.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind 1128.5	(-18.4)
FT All Share 683.7	(-8.29)
FT Govt Securities 63.95	(-0.03)
FT-SE 100 1431.9	(-23.6)
Datastream USM 109.19	(-0.13)
New York	
Dow Jones 1,456.41	(-0.22)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow 12,783.10	(-0.29)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng 1738	(+1.86)
Amsterdam Gen 238.0	(-4.1)
Sydney AOS96.4	(-4.1)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank 1763.6	(+10.9)
Brussels	
Generale 338.08	(-3.28)
Paris CAC247.9	(-0.4)
Zurich	
SKA General 465.40	(+0.80)

GOLD

London fixing:	
am \$331.58 pm \$331.25	
close \$331.50-\$332.00	(£226.00-225.50)
New York:	
Comex (Latest) \$331.45	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Robertsons Fresh	149p + 21p
Castle (GB)	75p + 2p
Apricot Computer	64p + 5p
Cook (W/M) (Sheff)	77p + 6p
Metals Sciences	6.50p + 0.50p
Powerline Int	145p + 10p
Abdn Steak House	58p + 4p
Vinton Group	151p + 10p
Wordplex	76p + 5p
Monument Off	18p + 1p
Newman Inds	23p + 2p
Alpha Ind	16.50 + 1p
Brong Eng	198p + 12p
Amrad Corp Ltd	18p + 1p
Dom Holdings	112p + 6p
Eng China Clays	285p + 15p
Brit Telecom P/P	205p + 10p
Northamber	205p + 10p

FALLS:	
Radio City "A" NV	28p - 5p
Vesper	210p - 31p
Parkland Text "A"	95p - 12p
D J Sky Alarm	70p - 7p
Common Brothers	70p - 7p
Asad Brit Eng	5.50 - 0.50p
Alphabetic	133p - 12p
UKO Ind	101p - 9p
Simpson (S) "A"	285p - 25p
Somportex Hldgs	156p - 12p

CURRENCIES

London:	
\$: \$1.4855 (+0.035)	
DM: \$2.7409 (+0.0085)	
Sfr: \$3.0696 (+0.0013)	
FF: \$11.3960 (+0.0288)	
Yen 294.78 (+1.35)	
Index: 80.5 (-0.2)	
New York:	
\$: \$1.4855	
DM: \$2.7409	
Sfr: \$3.0696	
FF: \$11.3960	
Yen 294.78	
Index: 80.5	

INTEREST RATES	
Bank Base: 11½%	
3-month Interbank 11½-11¾%	
3-month eligible bills: buying rate 11½-11¾%	
US:	
Prime Rate 9.50%	
Federal Funds 7½%	
3-month Treasury Bills 7.18-7.16%	
30-year bond price 99½-99¼	

SMITHS INDUSTRIES 1985

- Turnover* up 18%
- Profit up 32%
- Cash improvement £26m
- Dividend up 29%
- Further significant progress expected in 1986

	1985	1984
Turnover	£383.0m	£388.7m
*Turnover: continuing businesses	£371.4m	£316.0m
Profit before Tax	£47.6m	£36.2m
Earnings per Share	12.9p	10.2p
Dividend per Share	4.5p	3.5p

Principal Activities

AEROSPACE & DEFENCE: electronic displays; flight, engine and ignition systems; marine radar and instrumentation.

MEDICAL: single use products, surgical instruments and equipment.

INDUSTRIAL: ignition devices, ceramics, connectors, tubing, environment controls, marine equipment distribution. AUSTRALIA.

Name _____

Address _____

Company _____

Position _____

Tel. No. _____

STOCK MARKET REPORT

£3.5bn wiped from shares as profit takers move in

By Derek Pain and Cliff Feltham

The stock market paused for breath yesterday. After its record-breaking run came the inevitable round of profit taking and the FT 30 share index fell 18.4 points to 1,128.5 points.

The setback wiped £3,532 million from share values, according to Datastream.

Major casualties were the recent high-flyers which had been boosted by takeover speculation, sitting on handsome profits, could not resist the temptation to cash in all or part of their investments.

However, the market undertone remained firm. Most observers still think equities have 1,200 points in their sights. One dealer described the modest shake out as "merely a rest day between gallops".

Babcock International, the engineering group, resisted the market's downward trend yesterday, improving 5p to 185p. The shares were wanted on the growing feeling that they could be the next blue chip to attract a bid. Hanson Trust and TI Group are the favourite bid candidates.

Takeover rumours still dominated the share slide. Among the suggested targets were English China Clays, Pilkington Brothers and Marley. There was talk of Sears bidding into the costly British Home Stores-Habitat Mothercare merger by bidding for BHS. An early morning rumour, which quickly died, was a takeover bid for Beecham Group.

Others were influenced lower by another warning from Sheikh Yamani that crude prices could fall sharply. British Petroleum slipped 13p to 585p.

Much of the day's excitement centred on Imperial Group. There were suggestions that Imps, worried about a possible bid from Hanson Trust, would rush out its bid terms for United Biscuits today. About 300p a share was the rumoured price. Imps shares gained 4p to 235p and UB finished at 250p, down 8p.

Hanson fell 10p to 210p amid stories that the Kuwait Investment Office had further reduced its shareholding. The SCM court case result in America has not helped sentiment.

Hanson, once the stock market darling, has become friendless. Even the chartists do not like what they see.

Mr Chris Chailow, of Simon and Custer, a broker, rates Hanson and BAT as "sells" among the top 10 British companies.

His charts say that Hanson could fall to 160p over the next six months while BAT could sink to 26p in the next three months.

English China Clays, the quarry and construction group, gained 21p to 291p. The shares closed at 285p for an improvement of 15p.

The chairman, Sir Alan Dalton, said: "We make a habit of declining to comment on market rumours."

The rumours this time round centre on Tarmac and Consolidated Gold Fields which with its extensive building operations is considered a likely predator.

However, some sources were dismissing the takeover speculation and pointing to the fact that English China Clays, still with £86 million in its coffers following a rights issue in the summer, is beginning to represent an ideal buying opportunity for future growth.

Full year profits due next month are likely to be about £73 million compared with £63.8 million.

The interest in the company also pushed up the price of its West Country neighbour Watts Blake Beane in which it holds a 30 per cent stake. Its shares rose 9p to 186p.

The FT SE share index finished 23.6 points down at 1,431.9 points. Government stocks drifted.

Pilkington, on growing takeover expectations and talk that the shares had achieved a chart

break out, ended 5p higher at 313p. Marley rose 3p to 119p.

Mofas, makers of cigarette-making machinery, held at 170p, the level of a proposed management buy out. But there are signs that all may not be plain sailing. IEP Securities, the vehicle of New Zealand-born Australian based businessman, Mr Ron Brierty, was believed to have been in the market and could have picked about one per cent of the capital. IEP already had 7.5 per cent. BAT Industries has 29 per cent.

The City war of words over Plessey, the telecommunications group, is heating up. One leading broker insists that it will make profits of £152 million this year and £132 million next year. But in New York, Mr Peter Marshall, finance director, is thought to have given the impression that present year profits could be between £160 million and £175 million and further headway will be made next year.

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Norwegians demand strings with gas talks

By David Young Energy Correspondent

The head of one of Norway's largest oil companies yesterday warned Britain that there must be no repeat of the on-off negotiations which resulted in Whitehall vetoing the purchase of British Gas of £20 billion worth of Norwegian gas.

Mr Torvild Aakvaag, president of Norsk Hydro, said that in any new talks on the purchase of Norwegian gas by Britain both parties must accept that negotiations are conducted only once and that the delegations possess the necessary powers.

Norwegian oil industry chiefs are still annoyed that during the discussions to sell gas from the Norwegian Sleipner gas field, the British Gas negotiators were asked by the British Department of Energy and the Treasury to rediscuss various matters.

Mr Aakvaag said at a Norwegian trade conference in London yesterday: "After the unfortunate outcome of the Sleipner negotiations it looks as if Norwegian gas deliveries will decrease in the 1990s, at least for a while."

However, Norway has the largest undeveloped gas resources in Europe, and conditions should be favourable for supply to the large British gas market when Britain is ready to start new negotiations.

Sir Monty Finniston, former chairman of British Steel, told the conference: "A lesson for industrial nations to learn is the value of free - but fair - trading."

In principle, many governments were exponents of free trade and paid deference to market forces in the determination of international trade in a competitive world, he said.

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TEMPUS

Emphasis on development for plodding Carless

By Our City Staff

In the year since Carless Capel & Leonard failed in its bid to take over Premier Consolidated Oilfields, its shares have been drilled fairly steadily downwards. The fall owes as much to the general disillusionment with the oil sector as it does to the company's own fairly dull trading performance.

There was nothing in yesterday's interim results to suggest that the outlook is suddenly about to improve. The story remains the same in that it is the agrarian onshore sites of Humbley Grove and Wytham Farm which hold the key to future performance. In the meantime, Carless plods unspectacularly along.

Pretax profits rose from £3.1 million to £4.9 million a good increase until you realize that £2.1 million of this year's half-year profits came from the sale of the group's old head office building. There was a further £500,000 non-recurring profit from the hydrocarbon solvent division. Without these two factors the results would have looked distinctly disappointing.

The disclosure of the property profit above the line is difficult to defend. To argue that there is another chunk of sales to come some time in the future is no excuse for failing to classify the transaction as extraordinary and thus below the line.

If anything the accounting treatment only serves to arouse suspicion about why Carless felt it necessary to bolster its pretax profits in such a fashion. After all, the underlying trading has not been that bad.

Gross profits rose quite substantially, to £11.5 million from £7.8 million. The increase was largely due to the acquisition of LTV Steel's oil and gas interests in the United States. That purchase was financed solely out of borrowings, but despite the huge increase in the interest bill, from £198,000 to £3.1 million, the acquisition is still making a positive contribution both to profits and cash flow.

Elsewhere, the group's other two divisions also turned in good performances. The hydrocarbon solvents business added an extra £1 million to produce operating profits of £1.8 million. Half the increase came from the mysterious non-recurring item, but there was still a good increase as the company exploited its dominant market

position and improved productivity. Oil and gas exploration and production, of course, will ultimately determine Carless' future. The production profile looks good, with Humbley Grove due to come into production next year. Wytham Farm is producing useful cash flow but will not be properly on stream until the end of the decade.

With the emphasis very much on development now, Carless will be forced to incur substantial capital expenditure. With gearing already at 100 per cent its resources may be stretched, even though the company insists that there will be no rights issue. More likely, then, is a merger with another oil independent - perhaps Charterhouse Petroleum.

The shares closed down 5p at 113p. There is little incentive to buy but they can still be usefully held for the merger speculation.

J. H. Fenner

J. H. Fenner Holdings has made the cardinal error of breaking a promise, made when on the receiving end of a bid from Hawker Siddeley. As part of its successful defence strategy it forecast a substantial increase in dividends for the year to August. Yesterday it announced that no increase would be forthcoming.

The company also made two other important disclosures. Having opted to account for its Indian company as an associate rather than as a subsidiary, it had therefore had to restate last year's results. On the new basis, it is clear that Fenner would not have met the profits forecast for last year, also given at the time of Hawker's bid.

In addition, the company's disposals are taking longer than anticipated. In June it expected most of the planned sales to be completed before the year end but there has been some slippage, although Fenner still hopes to raise £10 million. Fenner's sale raised £6 million.

In its defence, Fenner says it could not have anticipated the continuing low level of orders for mining equipment this long after the miners' strike, nor the disruption in India.

Cynics might suggest that Fenner is taking advantage of a guaranteed bid-free period. Two months ago, Hawker sold its 25 per cent stake to Emerson Electric of the US which has promised not to bid

themselves to quotas and prices, but if they do not agree then nobody should blame Saudi Arabia if we also do not respect Opec decisions."

However, Saudi Arabia has recently moved away from the Opec price structure by selling oil on several Western companies on a net-back basis, which prices the oil involved in relation to the price received for the products from the oil.

Saudi Arabia argues that the effect of this scheme is that its oil sells at Opec rates, but it has also been selling oil from its floating stockpiles at spot-market-related prices.

In Jakarta, Indonesia's oil minister and the Opec president, Dr Subroto, said firmer prices in world spot oil markets were temporary and likely to fall again in the second quarter of next year.

He told reporters that firmer prices were mainly caused by the cold winter in the northern hemisphere and falling oil exports from the Soviet Union.

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By Our Energy Correspondent

Saudi Arabia, which is itself in breach of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' price rules, yesterday repeated its warning of a sharp fall in world oil prices if the forthcoming ministerial meeting of the producers' cartel fails to agree on a united policy on prices and production.

While increased season demand is keeping oil prices high - Norway and Russia have raised their official prices - Opec fears that there will be a price slump in the spring.

Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, said yesterday that Opec must avoid an inconclusive meeting in Geneva next month.

"The price of a barrel of oil will fall to \$20 if the next Opec meeting produces confusion and moodiness. If members opt to produce what they like and sell what they want I expect the price to fall to \$20."

"If there is a commitment within Opec then I expect the price to remain steady. I hope all members will commit

themselves to quotas and prices, but if they do not agree then nobody should blame Saudi Arabia if we also do not respect Opec decisions."

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THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your right share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the prize. If not, the prize money is shared among all the winners. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Current Price	Change	Yield %	P/E
1	DRAPERS AND STORES						
2	Woolworths	245	235	240	+5	4.5	12.5
3	Debenhams	185	175	180	+5	4.5	12.5
4	Primark	125	115	120	+5	4.5	12.5
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Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

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Woolworths	245	235	240	+5	4.5	12.5
Debenhams	185	175	180	+5	4.5	12.5
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1985 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div. Yield	P/E
183	170-175	Asda-Lyons	220	+8	10.7	3.7
6-7			112	-12	19.2	2.3

1985/86
First half
£122.6m.1984/85
First half
£100.8m.1983/84
First half
£90.5m.1982/83
First half
£73.9m.1981/82
First half
£65.5m.

Allied

Our best ever first half.

The excellent results achieved in the 28 weeks to 14th September, 1985 demonstrate that Allied-Lyons has the right strategy, the right structure and the right strengths to achieve continuing growth in profits and an increasing return for shareholders.

Excerpts from the interim statement announced yesterday.

RESULTS

Profit before tax for the 28 weeks ending 14th September, 1985 rose to a record £122.6 million compared with £100.8 million in the comparable period last year, an increase of 21.6 per cent. With the benefit of the continuing reduction in the tax rate, earnings improved by 27.3 per cent from 8.8 pence per share to 11.2 pence per share.

Despite poor weather throughout the summer, which

affected all three divisions, group turnover increased by 7.1 per cent. With continuing improvement in productivity and efficiency, trading margins increased from 6.6 per cent to 7.2 per cent.

INTERIM RESULTS (28 weeks to 14th September 1985)	
* Profit before tax	£122.6m, up 21.6%
* Earnings per share	11.2p, up 27.3%
* Dividend per share	3.25p, up 25.0%

BEER

The great success of Castlemeine XXXX in the areas so far covered has contributed to growth of Allied Breweries' share of the total lager market. This, with the growing benefit from the division's re-organisation last

December and the continuing programme of productivity improvement, has lifted profits by 20.0 per cent.

WINES, SPIRITS AND SOFT DRINKS

This division achieved an overall profit increase of 17.3 per cent, with significant sales advances recorded for light wines and British wines. There was some lack of volume with the more weather-sensitive products but otherwise performance was up to expectation.

FOOD

A good performance overall by the food companies both at home and abroad and in hotels and catering was partially offset by substantially lower profits from the U.K. ice cream business, leaving the profit increase for the division as a whole at 16.7 per cent.

Commenting on the results the Chairman, Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, said "We are pleased with the results achieved in not the easiest of trading periods. Perhaps overall the most encouraging aspect has been the performance of the beer division, which has moved into a higher gear following the management changes at the end of last year. With many of the positive factors in the first half continuing, I believe the outlook for the group for the second half of this year and beyond is excellent".

Allied-Lyons

In the five years up to February 1985, our pre-tax profit rose from £11.2m to £22.1m

FOOTBALL

Molby strikes twice as United pay cruel penalty

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Liverpool Manchester United

A highly controversial penalty took Liverpool into the fifth round of the Milk Cup at Anfield last night. United, though severely depleted, gained no reward for their brave defiance.

Ron Atkinson claims that his side usually "grows six inches taller" whenever they meet their great rivals. On this occasion they were six men short. Over the weekend Albion, their most experienced defender, and Hughes, their leading scorer, were added to a list of casualties that already included Robson, Moses, Duxbury and Barnes.

So powerful are Atkinson's resources (he is to strengthen them still further today by completing the signing of Gibson from Aston Villa for £275,000), that he was able to field nine full internationals. As it happened, the two outsiders yet to be recognized by their country, Hogg and particularly Blackmore, were to play prominent roles in United's resistance.

The Kop turned up the volume several notches in justifiable expectation. The ears that greeted the opening drive to whistles of disbelief within only seven minutes. After Olsen had almost taken advantage of early confusion in Liverpool's defence, McGrath stole through to complete a dazzlingly simple move and put United ahead.

Whitbread, noticing that the opposing back four was advancing in a square line, steered a pass through a gap. Brazil dummed in increase Liverpool's bemusement and McGrath was released on the

right. He brushed away several attempts to block his path before beating Grobbelaar with a convincing left-footed drive from the penalty spot.

It took Liverpool and their supporters a quarter of an hour to recover but then the tide inexorably turned. It was signalled by Nicol cutting in and forcing Bailey to his knees at the near post. It was continued by an idea that started in Molby's head at one end of the pitch and finished at Rush's feet at the other.

United survived then and, with mounting difficulty, until the interval. Bailey parried a header from Walsh, defied Johnston again at the foot of the near post and watched Hogg crucially deflect another effort from Johnston over the bar. But shortly before the hour Liverpool first equalised and then immediately took the lead.

Molby was twice responsible. First he strode forward and unleashed a drive of such awesome ferocity that Bailey could not even touch it as it flew past. Then he was presented with an opportunity through an outrageous decision by the linesman holding the yellow flag.

There can be no doubt that Moran handled him well. It was equally clear that the offence occurred outside the area. The referee checked with his official, awarded a penalty in spite of United's understandable complaints and Molby scored. The volume was turned up to its maximum level as the Kop, now relieved, celebrated.

LIVERPOOL: B Grobbelaar, S Nicol, J Beglin, M Lawrenson, R Whelan, A Hansen, P Walsh, C Johnston, I Rush, J Molby, S McMahon.
MANCHESTER UNITED: G Bailey, J Gorman, C Blackmore, N Whitbread, J Giddens, G Pugh, P McInnes, G Strachan, F Stapleton, A Brazil, J O'Brien.
Referee: K Shaw (Cheshire).

Atkinson signs Gibson as cover

Manchester United have signed the Aston Villa England Under-21 defender, Colin Gibson, for £275,000. The United manager, Ron Atkinson, decided to make an offer for Gibson after it became clear that Arthur Albiston, whose thigh was badly gashed in United's 3-0 defeat at Leicester, would be unable to play for several weeks.

United already have injuries to their captain, Robson, as well as Duxbury, Moses, Barnes and Hughes. Gibson is therefore expected to make his debut for United at Watford on Saturday.

Atkinson said: "Colin can play in midfield or at left back where we have been desperately short of cover for some time. I never make injuries an excuse but we have had more than our fair share this season and our squad is down to the bare bones."

Gibson, who is 25, has spent his whole career with Villa where he had become a regular at left back. This season he has been moved to midfield, but has been unhappy. The Villa manager, Graham Turner, said: "Gibson wanted to play at left back but we have Tony Doris settled in that position. Knowing that Gibson was unhappy in midfield, we decided it would be best to let him go if we received an acceptable offer."

Steve Hunt, West Bromwich Albion's transfer-listed former England international, now looks likely to sign for Villa. However, any deal is likely to be delayed until after Villa and Albion meet in this evening's fourth round Milk Cup replay at the Hawthorns.

Hunt who began his career at Villa Park as an apprentice, was put on the transfer list at his own request earlier in the season. He was linked with the former West Bromwich manager, Johnny Giles, over the role he was playing in the team.

Meanwhile, Villa plan to give Darren Bradley, 20, on loan to Sunderland. Sunday, the first chance to fill the vacancy left by Gibson. Bradley, a former England Youth international, played at Chelsea on Saturday when Gibson was injured and will retain his position in the team for tonight's game.

Villa will wait for the result of a fitness test before naming their side. Daley had to go off with an ankle injury during the 2-1 defeat at Chelsea on Saturday and if he is ruled out Birch will return to the side.

The driver of the second car, Andrew Dodson, aged 19, from Purbeck, Dorset, also died. The tragedy has cast a shadow over Fratton Park, where Portsmouth expect a 30,000 crowd for their Milk Cup fourth round replay against Tottenham Hotspur tonight.

With Portsmouth leading the second division, the tie against Tottenham should have been one of the highlights of Mr Deacon Jr's involvement at Fratton Park during which time he has invested £3 million in the club and launched a battle of attrition.

Alan Ball, the Portsmouth manager, said: "It's very sad news for everyone here."

Meanwhile, Ball is forced to wait for fitness checks on at least four players before naming his team. He said: "At the moment I cannot even name a squad."

The Republic off Ireland international winger, Kevin O'Callaghan, is struggling to overcome the knee injury which forced him to leave Portsmouth's home game against Sheffield United on Saturday, in which the south coast club went down to their heaviest defeat of the season.

Ball is also checking on the fitness of Mick Tait and the full backs Paul Hardyman and Lee Sandford, aged 17. "Sandford looked fit in training but it was his first real session. We'll just have to wait and see how the others react."

Ball is considering pushing Tait into midfield in place of O'Callaghan with Sandford coming in at full back to play only his third full match.

Manager and Biley settle differences

Chris Catlin, the Brighton and Hove Albion manager, the club's forward Alan Biley have settled their differences arising from Biley's refusal to play for the reserve side last Wednesday.

Catlin said yesterday "I have talked it over with Alan. This is a club matter and now it is ended. Biley, signed by Brighton from Portsmouth for £50,000 in March, admitted that his action had deserved the fine imposed on him by the club last week."

In the 15 matches Biley has played for the first team this season, he has scored five goals.

Alan Clarke, the Bamsley manager, has told his players to stay away from Oakwell until Thursday after three first-team players and several reserves went down with influenza.

The ill players were sent home immediately and, as a precaution, Clarke also sent home the rest of his squad after a short training session.

The three players in the virus are Wayne Goodison, the defender, Gwyn Thomas, the midfielder player, and Gordon Owen, the winger.

Clarke said: "There's a flu bug in the camp so as a precaution I've told everybody to keep away until Thursday. Hopefully by then the danger will have cleared."

To add to Clarke's problems, Kenny Burns starts a one-match suspension this week and Mark Ogley is serving a two-match suspension. Both were sent off in a reserve game at Leicester.

Following the loss of £100,000 in sponsorship and television fees, turnstile operators at Stoke City have agreed to take a 20 per cent pay cut to help the struggling second division club. Also several part-time groundsmen have been laid off.

FOOTBALL
MILK CUP: Fourth round: Chelsea 2, Everton 0; Ipswich 1, Swindon 1; Liverpool 1, Manchester United 1; Reading 1, Arsenal 2.
FULL MEMBERS' CUP: Northern final: First leg: Hull City 2, Manchester City 1.
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Chelsea 2, Luton 0; Fulham 2, Bristol Rovers 1; Reading 1, Colchester 1; Watford 2, Swindon 2.
RUGBY UNION
SCOTTISH RUGBY CUP: First round: Perth 2, Dundee 1; Llanelli 2, Llanelli 1.
MATHS: Brighton 2, Gosham 23; Exeter 0, Bath 37.



Man for United: Gibson moves from Villa as Old Trafford injury list lengthens

Chairman's son dies in car crash

John Deacon Jr, aged 32, the son of John Deacon, the chairman of Portsmouth, was killed in a head-on road car crash yesterday. Mr Deacon Jr, from Southampton, was driving the 3-1 Milk Cup win over Nottingham Forest on Monday night.

However, he was not even credited with the goal by Loftus Road's electronic scoreboard which flashed up the name of John Byrne.

Indeed, more than 13,000 crowd went home believing that Byrne had scored both of the Rangers goals, which came in a dramatic last two minutes. But Bannister confirmed afterwards that he was responsible for one of the goals.

"It makes me laugh", Bannister said. "I haven't scored for 10 years and now everybody is trying to take it off me."

"The longest I've ever been without a goal before was seven games and it was getting a bit worrying. I have been playing better than I did last season, but you need the confidence which a goal gives you."

"The manager and players have all been great. They have been right behind me and I could feel them willing me to score. Hopefully this will get me back on the right road."

Until his goalless spell, Bannister had averaged more than a goal every other game since his transfer from Sheffield Wednesday.

Rangers went ahead with a controversial penalty in the eighth minute scored by Terry Fenwick. Even Jim Smith, the Rangers manager, admitted that Michael Robinson was outside the penalty area when he was tripped by Stuart Pearce, the Forest captain.

Forest looked down and out during the one-sided first half but recovered well enough to salvage a point in the second half through Nigel Clough 10 minutes from the end.

Just when a replay seemed likely, Bannister restored Rangers' lead in the 88th minute. Peter Davenport, the Forest forward, was sent off a minute later for throwing a punch, but the goal was still there for Byrne to equalize through Nigel Clough 10 minutes from the end.

In the FA Cup, Runcorn earned a second round home tie with third division Wigan Athletic by beating their Gola League rivals, Boston, 4-1 in their first round, second replay.

Two promising careers cut tragically short

By Cliff Temple

Julie Rose and Susan Baxter, the two young British athletes who died in a light plane crash in Des Moines, Iowa, on Monday, were among the many dozens of promising youngsters who, over the years, have responded to the call of the US collegiate athletics system.

Miss Rose, aged 21, from Ashford in Kent, had represented Great Britain at 3,000 metres in indoor athletics twice during 1982, and had won English schools titles at 1,500 metres in the junior intermediate and senior age groups.

Like most schools champions, Miss Rose had received her share of offers to attend American universities on track scholarships, and she had accepted a place at Iowa State University in Ames. A lively girl and a determined competitor, she had become frustrated in 1983 when her career started to decline because of injury. However, she was just getting back to her best form and looking forward to a successful winter.

Miss Baxter, from Brentwood, in Essex, who was 22 on Sunday, was also at Iowa State and had long been one of Miss Rose's regular rivals. When Miss Rose won the 1982 English schools 1,500 metres title, Miss Baxter was second, just a stride behind.

The Iowa State team had been returning from the national collegiate cross-country championships in Milwaukee when the accident occurred.

Chiff Temple, the Athletics Correspondent of the Sunday Times, was coach to Julie Rose.

Bannister gets goal but no credit

Gary Bannister chose the perfect moment to end the longest goalless period of his career when he headed Queen's Park Rangers' second goal in their 3-1 Milk Cup win over Nottingham Forest on Monday night.

However, he was not even credited with the goal by Loftus Road's electronic scoreboard which flashed up the name of John Byrne.

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Consolation for England

There was some consolation for Bobby Robson, the England manager, after he heard that England would not be one of the six top seeds in next year's World Cup finals in Mexico. His side are now unlikely to have to play in Monterrey.

The city is several thousand feet below the other World Cup venues and matches there are likely to be played in temperatures hovering around 100°F. Robson feared that England would have to play their group matches in Monterrey if they were chosen as the last of the top six seeds, but instead that dubious privilege has been awarded to Poland.

Robson said: "At least it's all settled now and we have a good chance of avoiding Monterrey and its difficulties. Somebody has to make these decisions and I have no argument with their choice."

The Group A leaders will be Italy, based in Puebla, while Mexico will predictable play all their matches in

BOXING

Welterweights could provide bout of year

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Alexander Pavlov, which was the scene of one of the most boring British heavyweight title bouts last September when Hughie Curry beat Fonso Banjo, could see "the fight of the year" when Britain's two world-ranked welterweights, Lloyd Honeyghan of Bermonsey, the European champion and Sylvester Mitee of Benhall Green, the British and Commonwealth title-holder, face each other.

With the triple championship at stake, the loser will have to step out of the rankings. This will be a pity because both men have the capability to distinguish themselves as world contenders when Donald Curry and Milton McCrory move up to light-middle, after their upping world welterweight title bout.

Had Honeyghan and Mitee not belonged to rival camps and disliked the sight of each other, it might have been possible to steer both of them to world title shots once the eliminator series start in the best two to follow Curry and McCrory.

No doubt the loser will still have plenty to fight for, and before long he may even be back in the rankings, but it is always a hard slog starting all over again. Honeyghan is taking 60 per cent of the £62,500 purse, and Mitee 40 per cent, as formally it is the European title that is being contested. But Honeyghan at world No 4 has further to fall out of the top 10 than Mitee at number seven.

Both boxers belonged to the Terry Lawless stable and, a year ago, sparred enough times to be familiar with each other's style. But it is a bout where the man better able to suppress the pressures of a needie

suppose all that will be left behind in the gym for this contest, and he has greater hand speed and can land the sharper blows. Honeyghan has been floored, but has always picked himself up and come back with immense determination.

It would need a Colin Jones punch to keep Honeyghan down, and Mitee does not seem to possess such explosive power. Mitee's boxing does tend to lose its crispness in the later rounds, and Honeyghan's gets better. The further it goes, the better seems to be Honeyghan's chance.

Challenge from Hungary

England, who were defeated 10-1 by East Germany at Rostock last month, can expect another tough match when they face Hungary tonight in an amateur international at the Blechnie Leisure Centre (Srikanth Sen writes). The Hungarians, accompanied by that great Olympian, László Papp, who won gold medals in 1948, 1952 and 1956, are bringing along seven national champions, Imre Bacsik, light-welter, and Zoltan Fuzessy, middle-welter, were runners-up in the 1985 European championships. Bacsik was a silver medal winner in the 1983 World Cup.

England will make two changes from the team that went to Rostock. At lightweight, Neil Foran (Rottunda Liverpool) steps in for Carl Crook (Huddersfield) who has just joined the professional ranks, and Ted Kershaw (the Mottam and Hattersley welterweight, runner-up in the George Whempsey ABA national championships, who is now a professional, says Srikanth Sen writes). The Hungarians, accompanied by that great Olympian, László Papp, who won gold medals in 1948, 1952 and 1956, are bringing along seven national champions, Imre Bacsik, light-welter, and Zoltan Fuzessy, middle-welter, were runners-up in the 1985 European championships. Bacsik was a silver medal winner in the 1983 World Cup.

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ATHLETICS

Budd may put Irish in running

By Pat Butcher

The Milk Cup international cross-country at Mullin, near Belfast, on January 4 will be Northern Ireland's first advertisement in an attempt to attract the world's best cross-country runners to the British Isles.

The 1986 world championship, when this will be considered for 198

Law Report November 27 1985

More favourable immigration rules applicable

Regina v Immigration Appeal Tribunal, Ex parte Hogue Same v Same, Ex parte Rahmat Same v Same, Ex parte Rahman

Before Mr Justice Taylor

[Judgment delivered November 21]

The proper approach to be adopted in the interpretation and application of the immigration rules introduced under the Immigration Act 1971 was considered upon a comparison of those rules which existed before the Act and those existing after the Act. If the rules passed after the Act were such as to make it more difficult for Commonwealth citizens settled in the United Kingdom to come and go, then the previous, more favourable rules should apply even if they had been repealed.

Mr Justice Taylor so held in the Queen's Bench Division granting an order of certiorari to quash the decision of the Immigration Appeal Tribunal which refused the applicants leave to enter for their separate appeals. Each applicant was under 21 but over 18 and sought to enter this country as part of a family unit seeking settlement. Entry clearance was granted to all other family members but refused in respect of the applicants.

They claimed that they were entitled to rely on section 1(5) of the Immigration Act 1971 which stated that "The rules shall be so framed that Commonwealth citizens settled in the United Kingdom at the coming into force of the Act and their wives and children are not by virtue of anything in the rules any less free to come and go from the United Kingdom, than if this Act had not been passed".

Mr Justice Taylor said that the tribunal in each instance applied the wrong rules. They applied paragraph 47 of *Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules* (HC 394) which provided that children aged 18 and over must qualify in their own right unless in special compassionate circumstances. The correct rule to apply was paragraph 40 of *Commonwealth Immigration Rules 1962-1966*, which provided that children over 18 must qualify for admission in their own right but subject to paragraph 37 and 38, as unmarried and fully dependent on their father or mother or on a single parent who was the sole provider of maintenance for the family.

Mr John Platt QC and Mr. G. M. C. Hogg QC (for Mr Hogue) and Mr. Nasiruddin Alsalamani (for Mr Rahmat), Mr. M. K. U. Ahmed (for Mr Rahman), Mr. Andrew Collins QC, for the tribunal.

MR JUSTICE TAYLOR said that it seemed that the proper interpretation of the section should be that put forward by counsel for the applicants, that the section contemplated that those seeking to enter the United Kingdom should not be in any worse position than before the 1971 Act. That took into account not only rights and entitlements but also the discretion given to entry certificate officers.

The rules before the 1971 Act had to be compared with those after the Act and if the subsequent rules were less favourable the status quo must prevail; in other words the position then the time the Act came into force had to be the lowest to which the applicant could be reduced. Any change after the Act had to be to his benefit.

His Lordship said that Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, gave a useful analysis of the correct approach in the case of *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Amey* (1976) 1 WLR 979, 983 when he said: "The section says that the rules for wives and children who come after January 1, 1973, are not to be any more restrictive than the previous rules. So we have to look at the rules applying before January 1973 and the rules applying afterwards".

It seemed that Mr Justice Fargherson adopted the same approach in the case of *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Amey* (1976) 1 WLR 979, 983 when he said: "The section says that the rules for wives and children who come after January 1, 1973, are not to be any more restrictive than the previous rules. So we have to look at the rules applying before January 1973 and the rules applying afterwards".

Section 1(5) said how subsequent rules were to be framed and the words "as if this Act had not been passed" did not bear the construction which Mr Collins put upon it. The correct approach to the section was that indicated in *Ex parte Bibi* which provided that children aged 18 and over must qualify in their own right unless in special compassionate circumstances. The correct rule to apply was paragraph 40 of *Commonwealth Immigration Rules 1962-1966*, which provided that children over 18 must qualify for admission in their own right but subject to paragraph 37 and 38, as unmarried and fully dependent on their father or mother or on a single parent who was the sole provider of maintenance for the family.

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Solicitors: B. C. Mascarenhas, Wood Green, Treasury Solicitor.

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 27 1985

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

also on page 30

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Deceased's habits in assessing damages

Wilson v Stag and Another

Before Lord Justice Slade, Lord Justice Purchas and Sir Rousley Cumming-Bruce

[Judgment delivered November 25]

Defendants could not pay in aid the extravagant tastes or habits of a particular deceased in the assessment of damages for the loss under the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1934.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing the defendants' appeal from an award of damages made by Mr Justice Hodgson on March 23, 1984.

Mr C. J. Holland QC and Mr. Stuart C. Brown for the appellants; Mr. Robert S. Smith for the respondents.

LORD JUSTICE PURCHAS said that although for the purposes of claims under the 1934 Act brought after January 1, 1983 for the benefit of the estate of the deceased, damages would no longer include loss of income in respect of any period of death, there were still a considerable number of claims in which the question would arise under the 1934 Act.

It had been argued that in the "living expenses" which had to be subtracted from the net income, all the moneys spent for the deceased's own living expenses and pleasure should be included. In the present case money spent on entertaining his girl friend was part of the pleasure upon which the deceased chose to spend his money and therefore on the evidence found by

the judge there should have been no surplus.

However, the position was clear that for the purposes of a claim brought under the 1934 Act in the case of a death occurring before January 1, 1983 the calculation of damages for loss of future earnings was to be made by taking as the base line the net earnings after subtracting a figure for the "living" expenses arising from the fact that as a result of the death money had been saved which would have reasonably been spent in order to support a lifestyle appropriate to a person in the deceased's position within the definition in *White v London Transport Executive* (1962) 2 QB 489 as approved by the Court of Appeal in *Harris v Empress Motors* (1964) 1 WLR 1212.

For that computation the way in which the deceased was in fact spending his earnings was only one factor which could be taken into consideration when computing an objective figure his reasonable living expenses which were to be deducted by way of mitigation of the damages.

In considering as a subjective matter the deceased's way of life, whether he spent the net earnings beyond the proportion required for his living expenses in line with his station in life should not be relevant for computing the surplus.

Lord Justice Slade and Sir Rousley Cumming-Bruce agreed. Solicitors: Hepworth & Chadwick, Leeds; Emmsy Collins, Leeds.

When coroner's court becomes 'active'

Pearcock and Others v London Weekend Television Ltd

For the purposes of section 2 of, and paragraph 12 of Schedule 1 of, the Contempt of Court Act 1981, proceedings before a coroner were "active" as soon as he had opened an inquest, even if only to establish the fact of death and the identity of the deceased, and had then adjourned sine die (pending alternative investigations) the hearing of any contentious evidence.

An interlocutory injunction to prevent an anticipated contempt of such proceedings could be obtained by any interested party under section 37(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981. Section 7 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, which required the consent of the Attorney General

for the institution of contempt proceedings, did not apply until an alleged contempt had already been committed.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Kerr and Lord Justice Croom-Johnson), so held on November 15, dismissing an appeal by the defendants from Mr Justice Gagehouse who, on November 7, 1985, granted the plaintiffs, six police officers, an injunction to restrain the defendants from broadcasting a filmed reconstruction of the events surrounding the arrest and subsequent death of John Milkstone, a black, 16½ year old, on the night of July 15-16, 1985, on the ground that such broadcast would amount to a contempt of an inquest being conducted by the Hammett-Smith coroner, Dr Bowen.

Person 'before the court'

Regina v Kingston upon Thames Crown Court, Ex parte Gaurino

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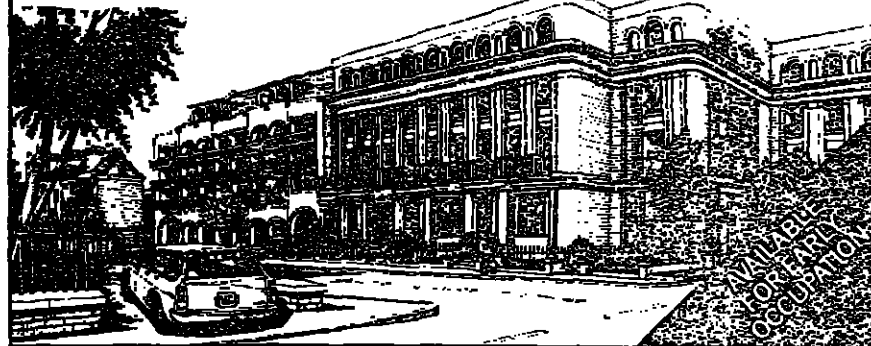
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